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KEY

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No. 3
WINTER
ISSUE

COMICS



WALTER
JOHNSON

The **KEY**
IN THE CASE OF
The **SKELETON KEY**
+ 6 MORE
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to
Win Her!*

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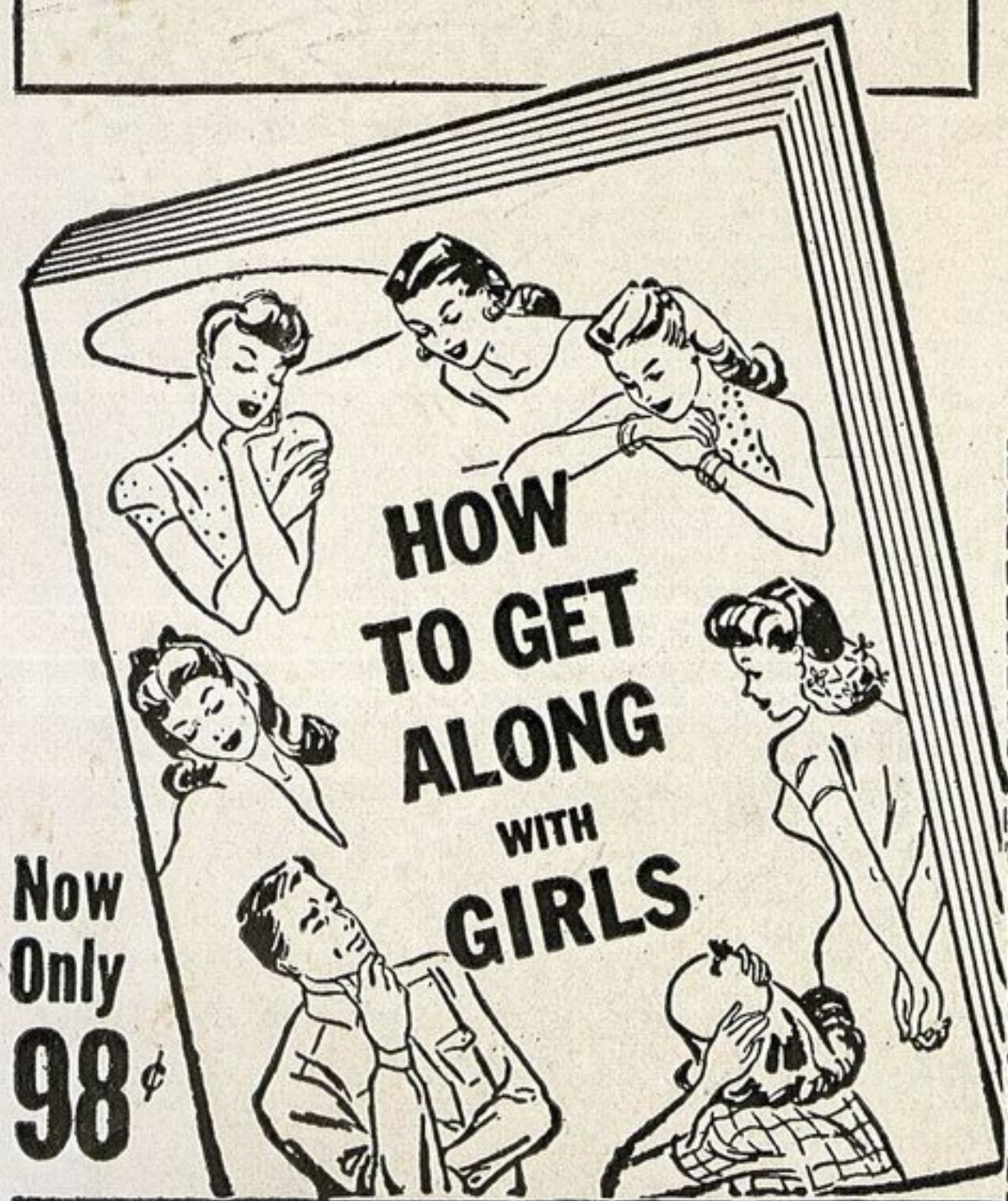
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A KEY GUARDS A SECRET ON WHICH THE FATE OF A WORLD HANGS. DR. JEFFRY QUICK, THE KEYMASTER, IS SENT ON A MISSION WHOSE SUCCESS HOLDS THE FUTURE OF CIVILIZATION! READ ON AND YOU WILL KNOW THE STORY OF THE SKELETON KEY!

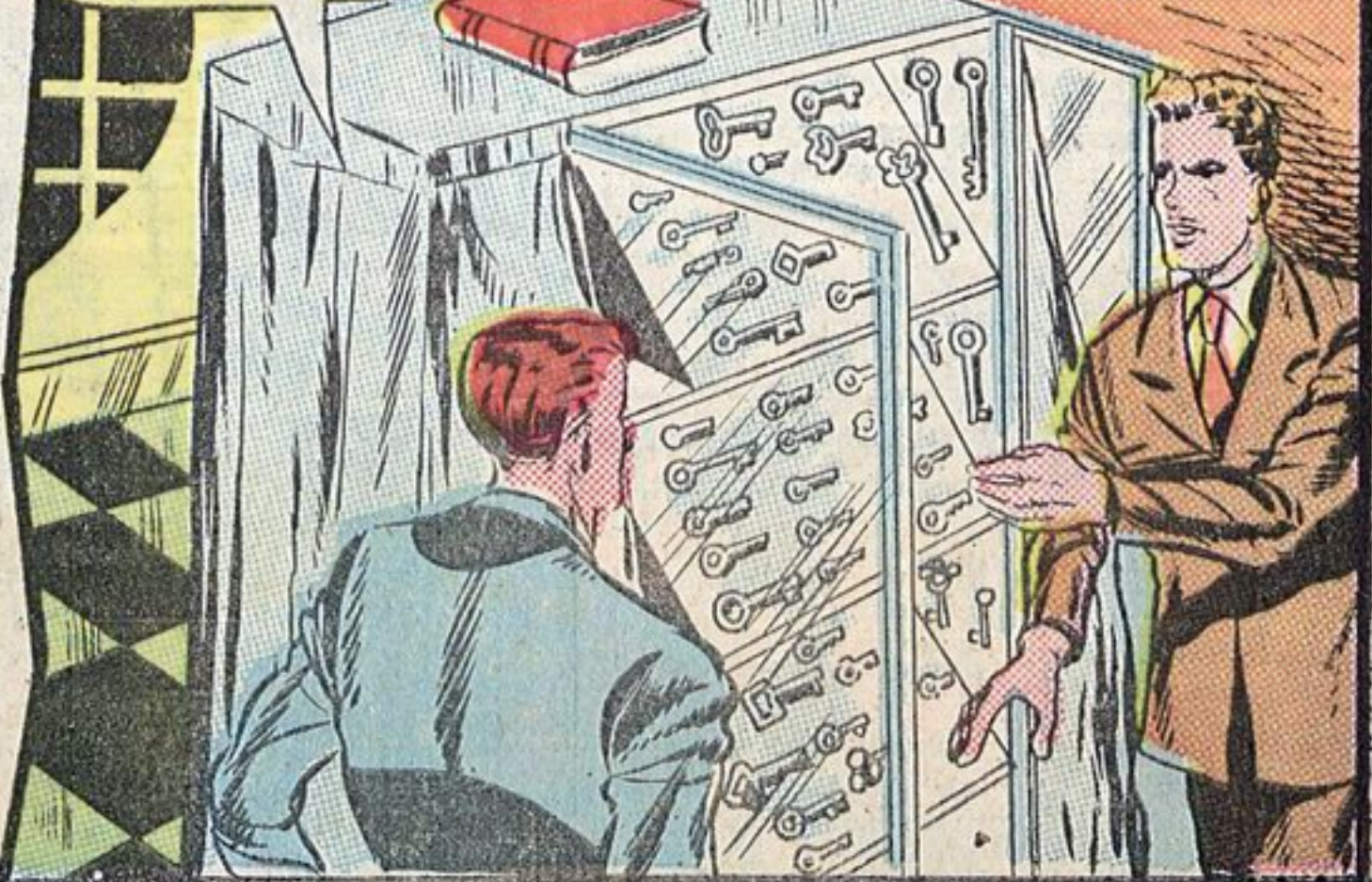
LATE ONE EVENING, IN THE HOME OF JEFFRY QUICK---



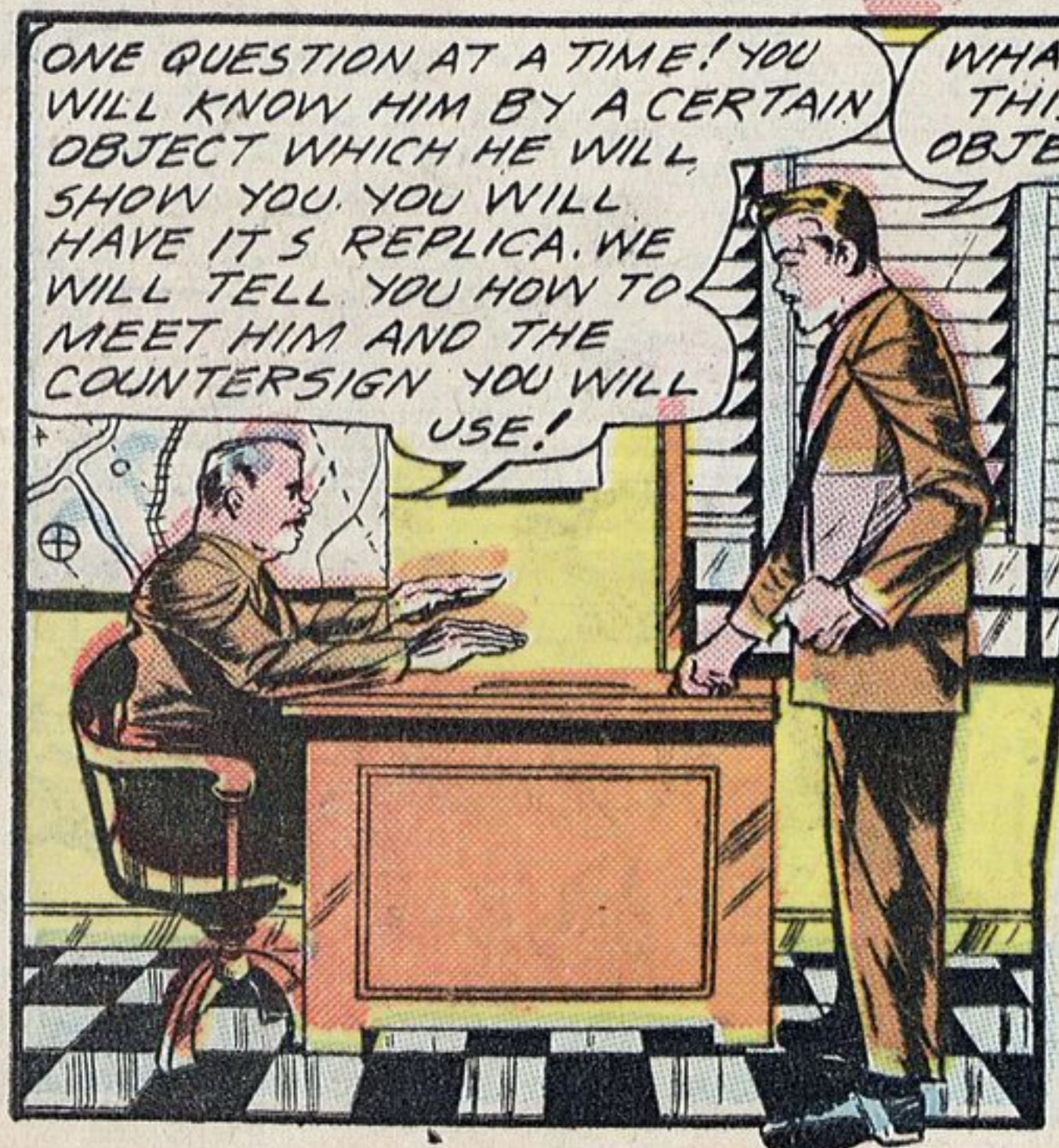
AND THIS CASE CONTAINS YOUR FAMOUS COLLECTION OF KEYS---

YES, YOU WILL SEE WHY I'M CALLED THE KEY MASTER!

MY WORD! I HAVE NEVER SEEN SO MANY DIFFERENT KINDS OF KEYS, AND EACH ONE HAS ITS OWN STORY, I SUPPOSE---

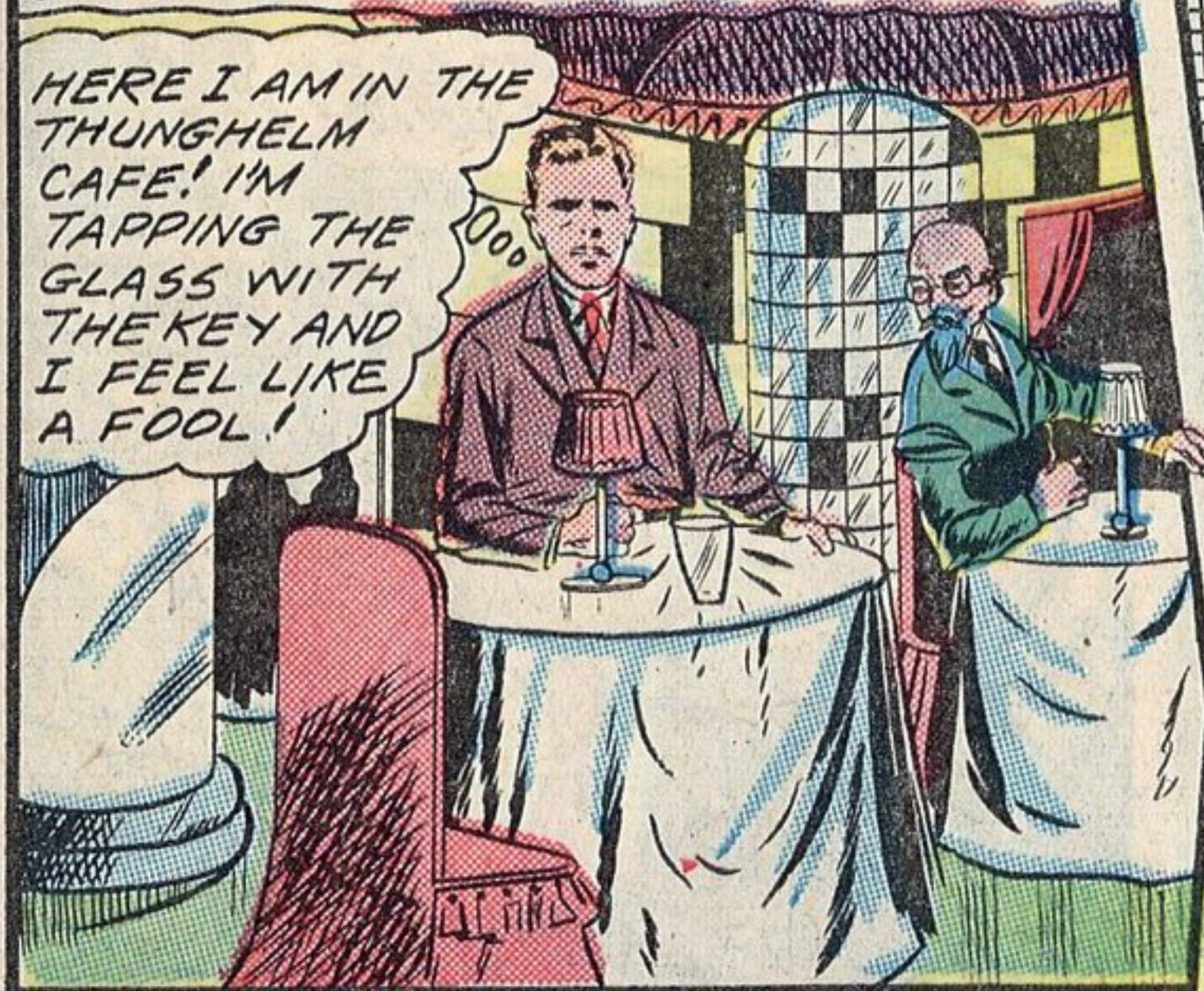


HERE--I WILL SELECT ONE AT RANDOM, AND TELL YOU ABOUT IT!



I STUDIED THE INSTRUCTIONS, AND WHEN I ARRIVED IN COPENHAGEN I DID AS I WAS TOLD TO--

HERE I AM IN THE THUNGHELM CAFE! I'M TAPPING THE GLASS WITH THE KEY AND I FEEL LIKE A FOOL!



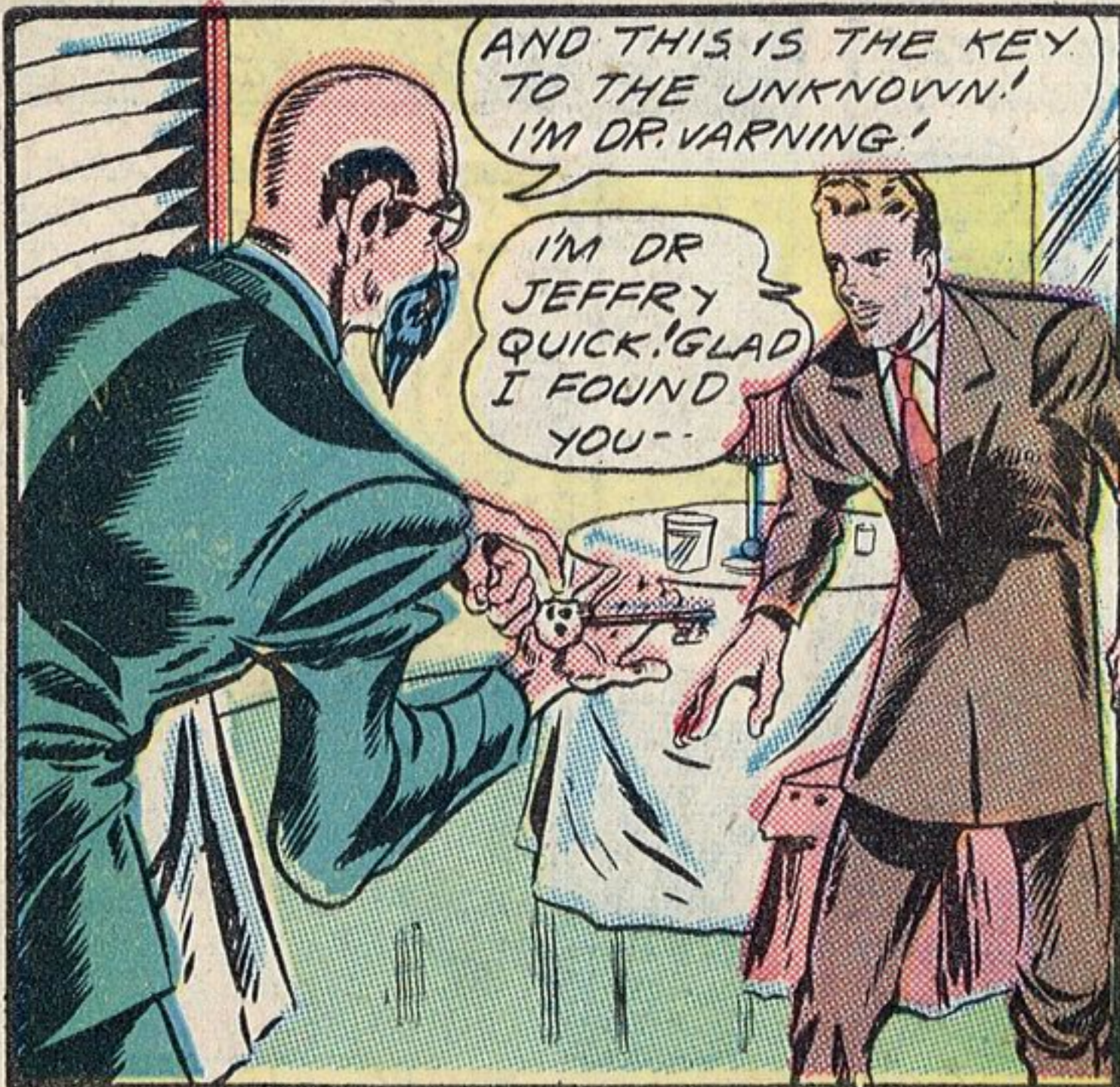
THAT IS AN ODD LOOKING KEY, SIR!

THIS? IT IS THE KEY TO THE FUTURE--



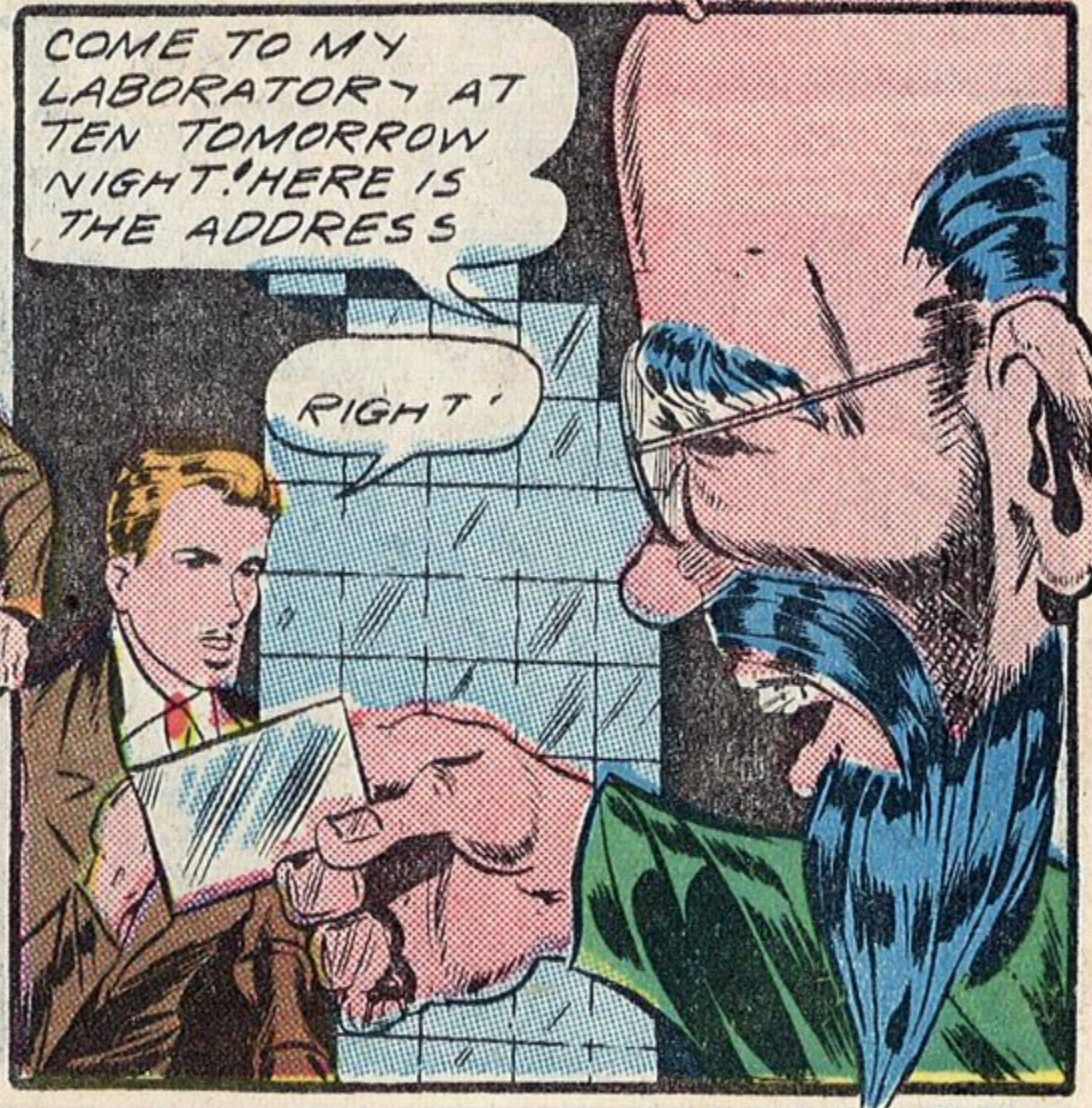
AND THIS IS THE KEY TO THE UNKNOWN! I'M DR. VARNING!

I'M DR. JEFFREY QUICK! GLAD I FOUND YOU--



COME TO MY LABORATORY AT TEN TOMORROW NIGHT! HERE IS THE ADDRESS

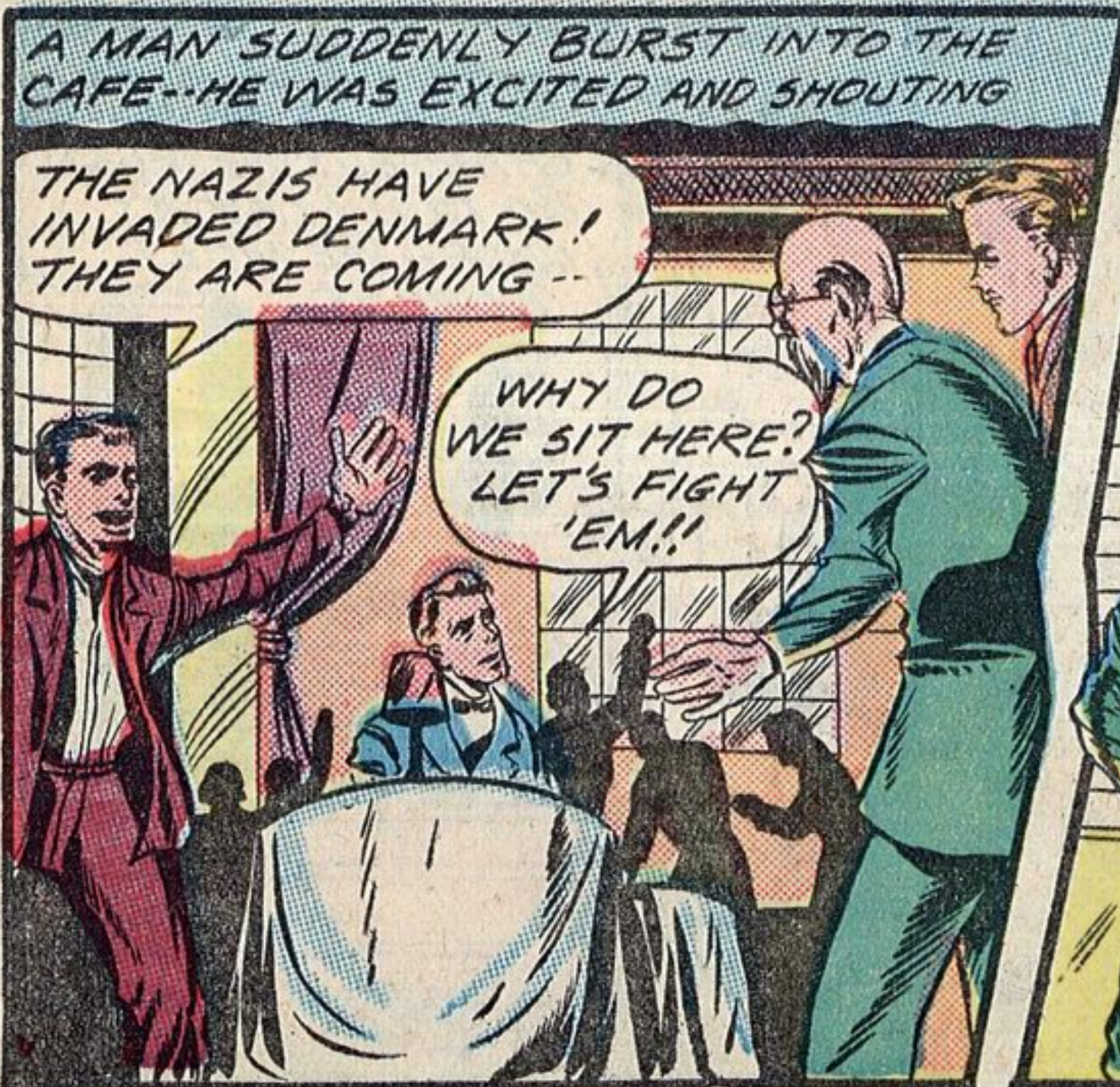
RIGHT!



A MAN SUDDENLY BURST INTO THE CAFE--HE WAS EXCITED AND SHOUTING

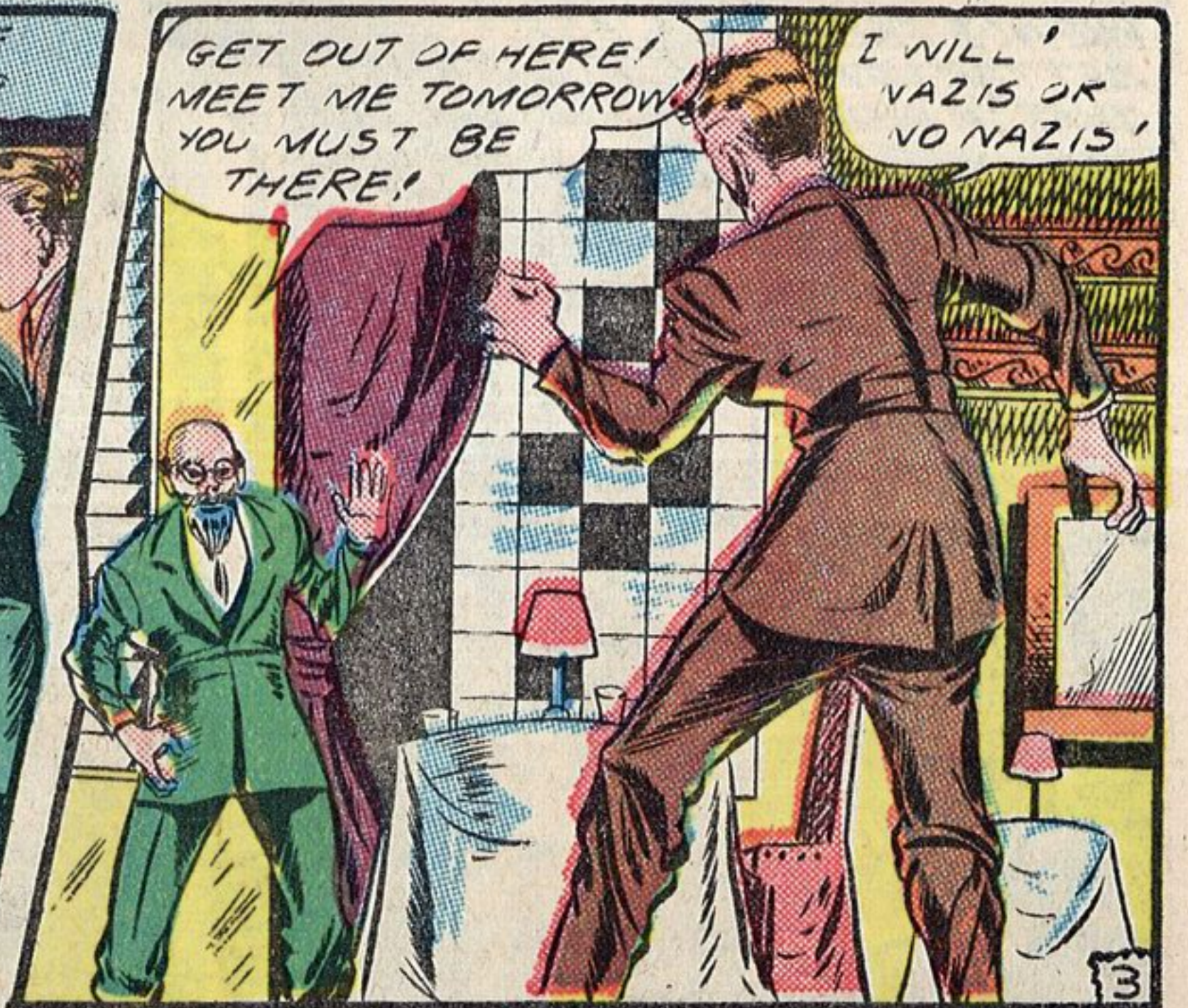
THE NAZIS HAVE INVADED DENMARK! THEY ARE COMING--

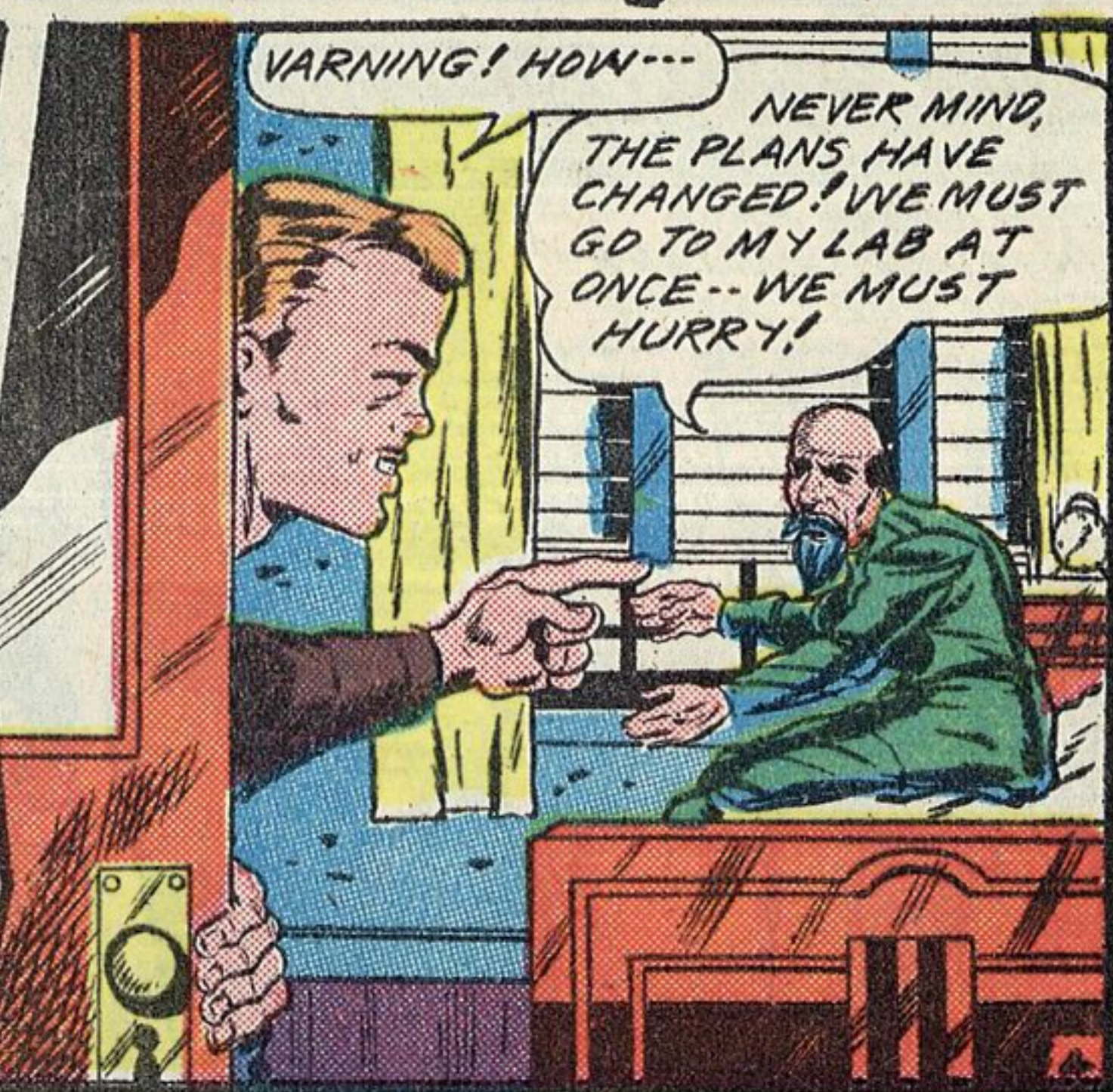
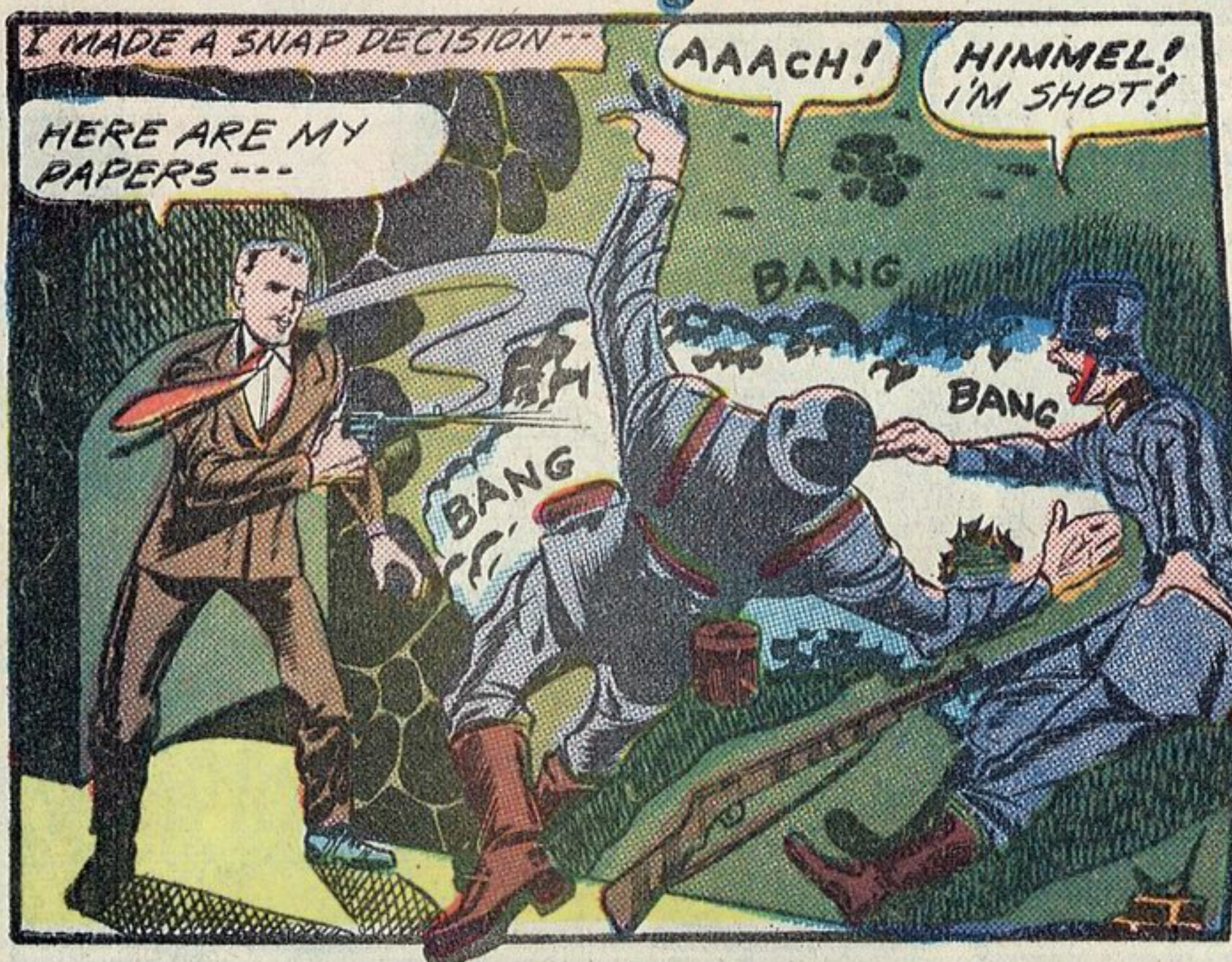
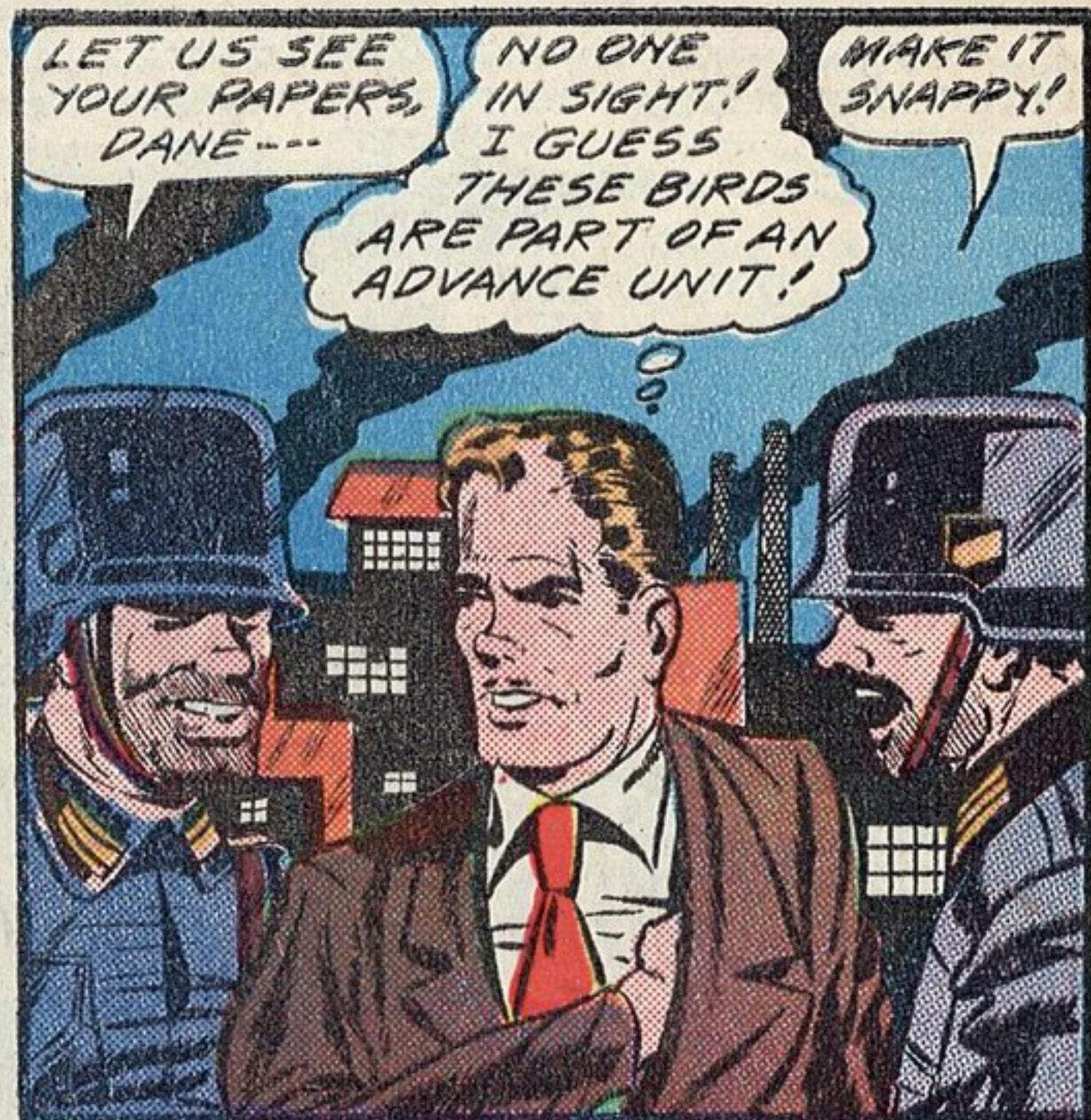
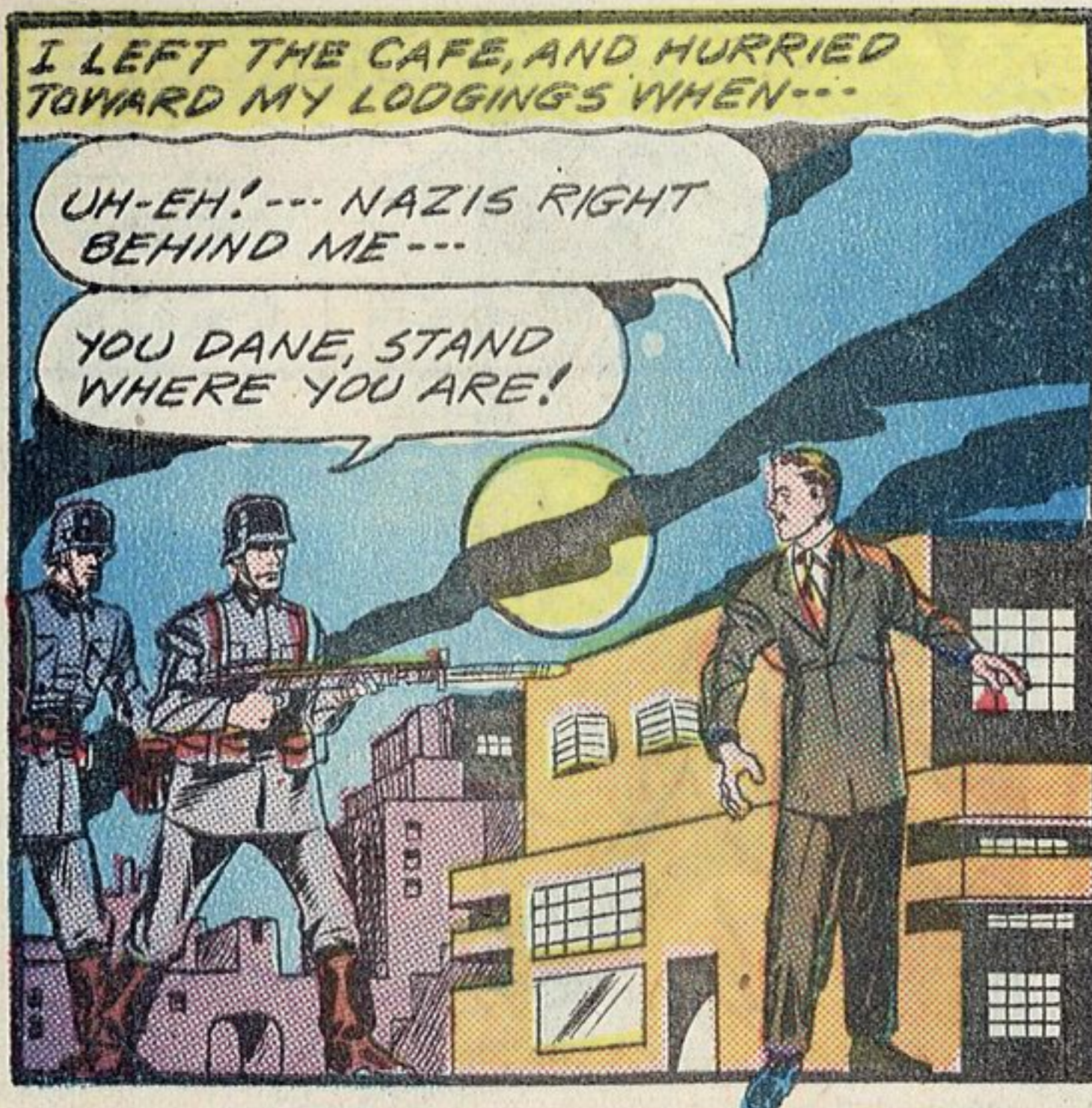
WHY DO WE SIT HERE? LET'S FIGHT 'EM!!



GET OUT OF HERE! MEET ME TOMORROW! YOU MUST BE THERE!

I WILL! VAZIS OR VO NAZIS!





WE LEFT IMMEDIATELY--

I HAVE WORD THAT THE NAZIS INTEND TO RAID MY LABORATORY EARLY THIS MORNING! THEY WANT WHAT I'M WORKING ON-- THEY MUST NOT GET IT!

JUST WHAT IS IT THEY'RE AFTER, DOCTOR?

I'M WORKING ON EXPERIMENTS HAVING TO DO WITH HARNESSING ATOMIC ENERGY! THINK OF IT--IF WE CAN SMASH THE ATOM, AND KEEP THE SECRET IN PROPER HANDS, WAR CAN BE WIPED OFF THE EARTH! I AM WORKING ON AN ATOMIC BOMB-- AND YOU WILL BRING THE PLANS BACK TO ENGLAND!

I WAS STUNNED BY WHAT HE TOLD ME!

AN ATOMIC BOMB? PHEW! NO WONDER THE JERRIES WANT YOUR PLANS! I CAN'T BELIEVE IT! HARNESSING THE ATOM-- FOR DESTRUCTION IN WAR-- AND INDUSTRY IN PEACETIME!

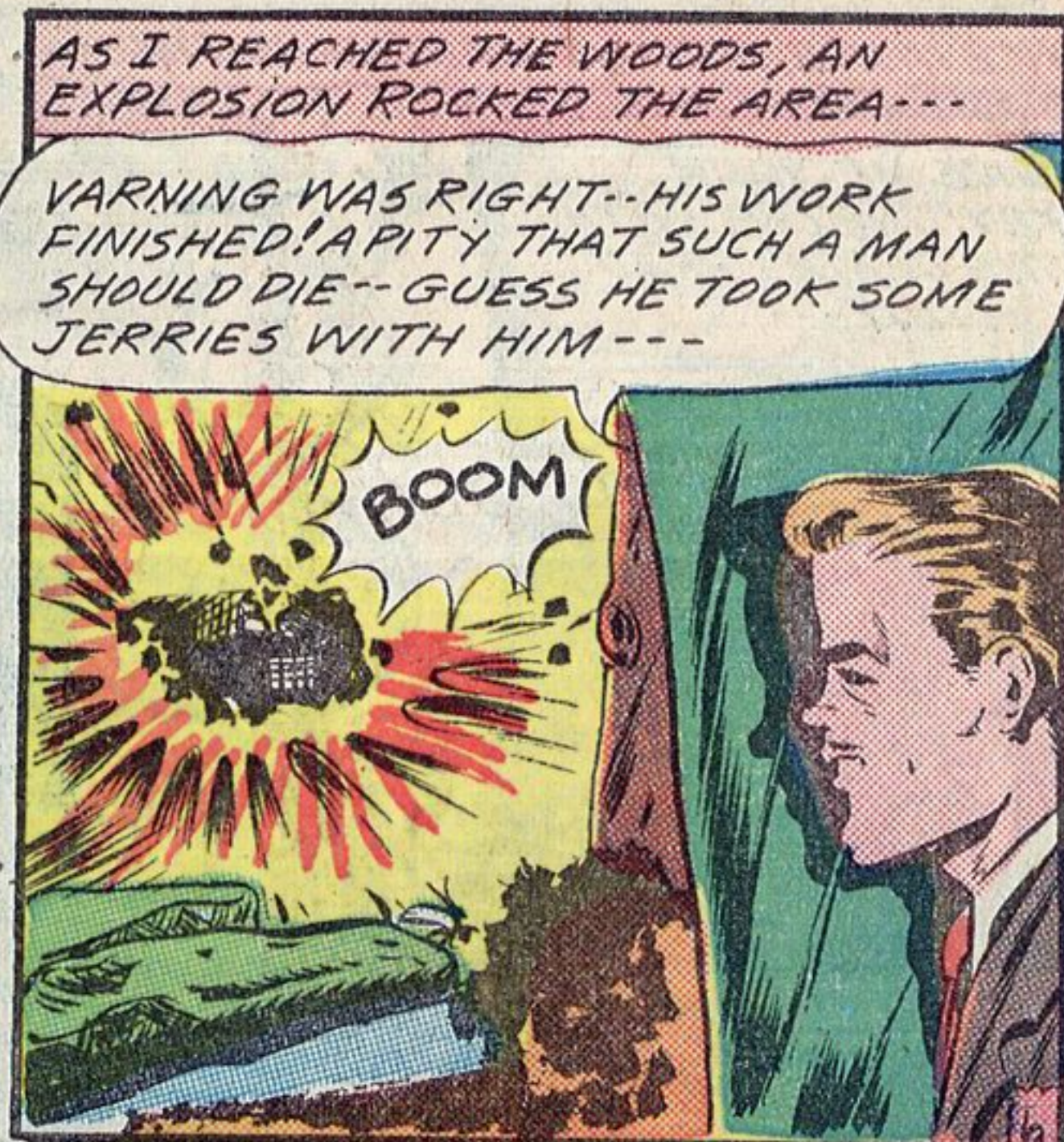
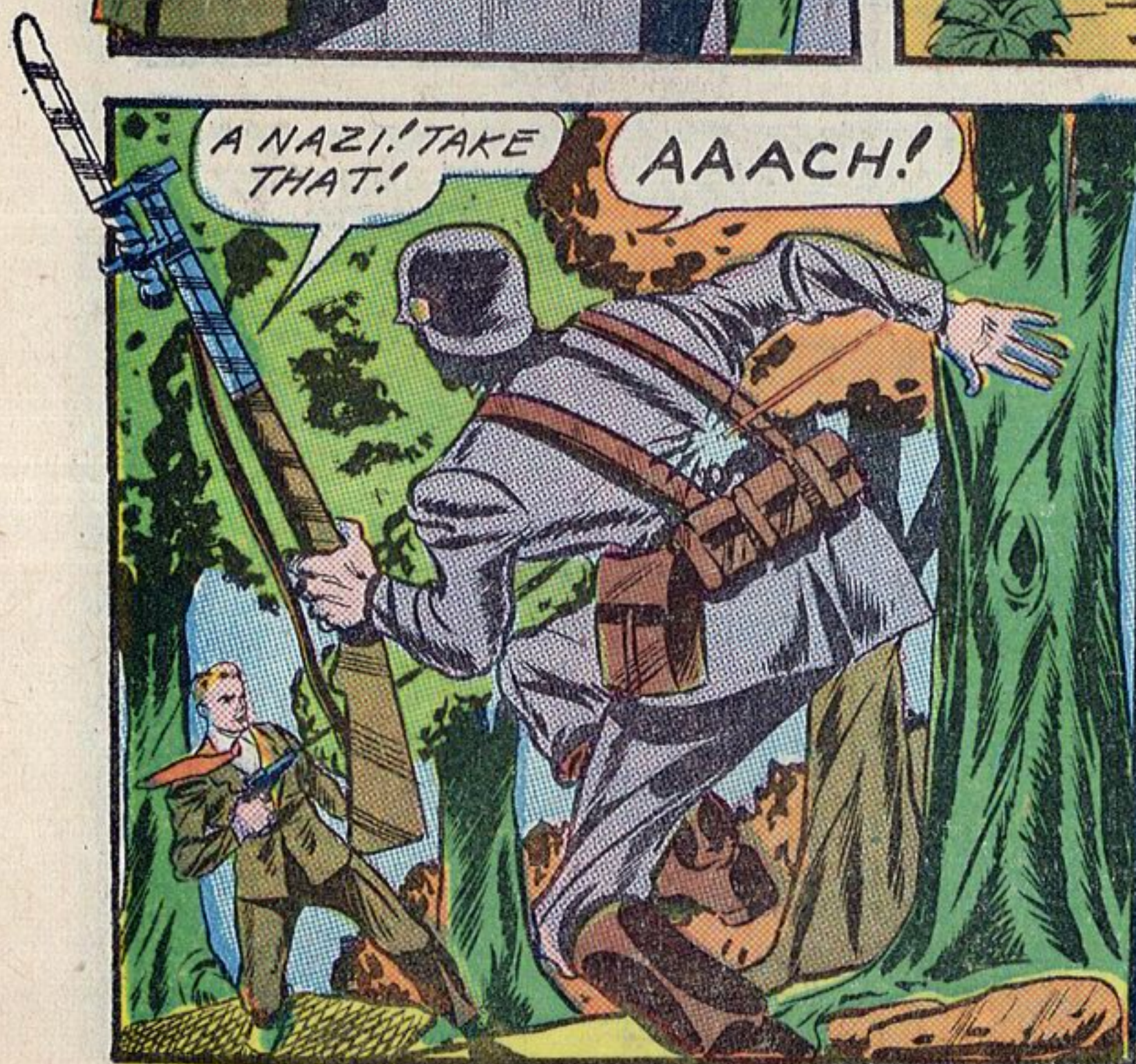
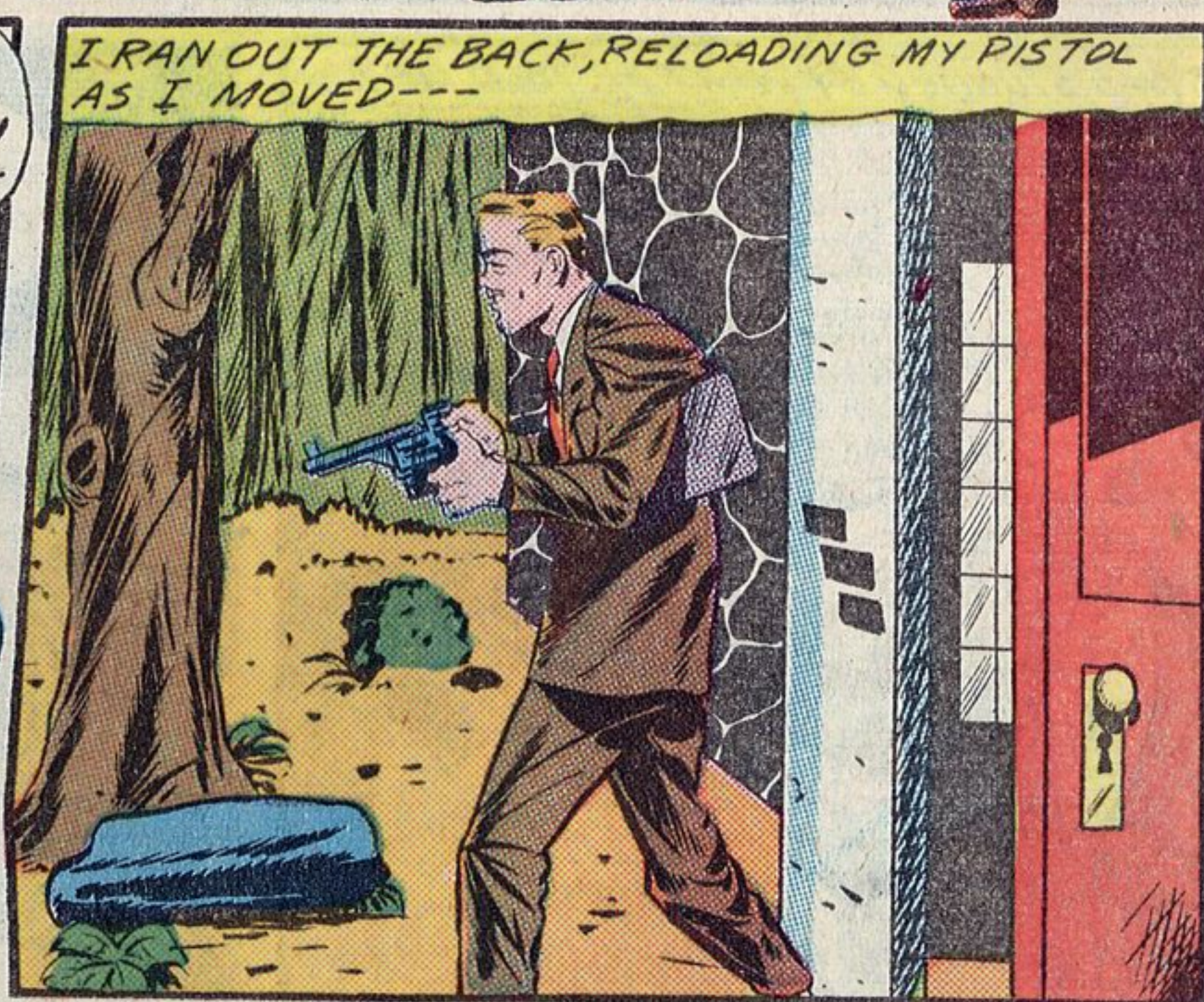
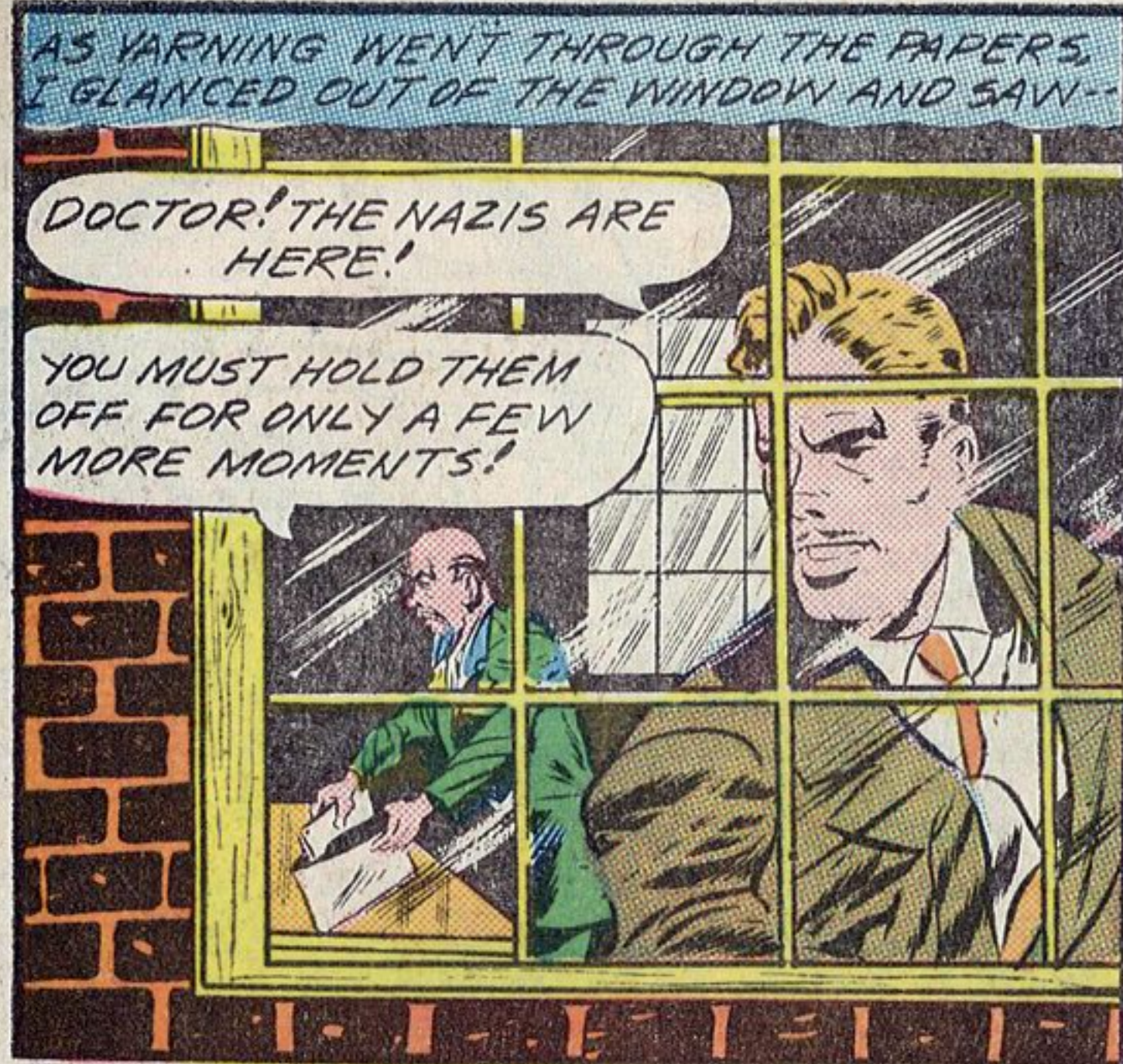
HERE WE ARE! NOW WE MUST MAKE HASTE AND COLLECT ALL THE PAPERS---

ONCE INSIDE, VARNING WASTED NO TIME---

GIVE ME YOUR KEY! THE ONE WITH THE DEATH'S HEAD ON IT---

SURE--

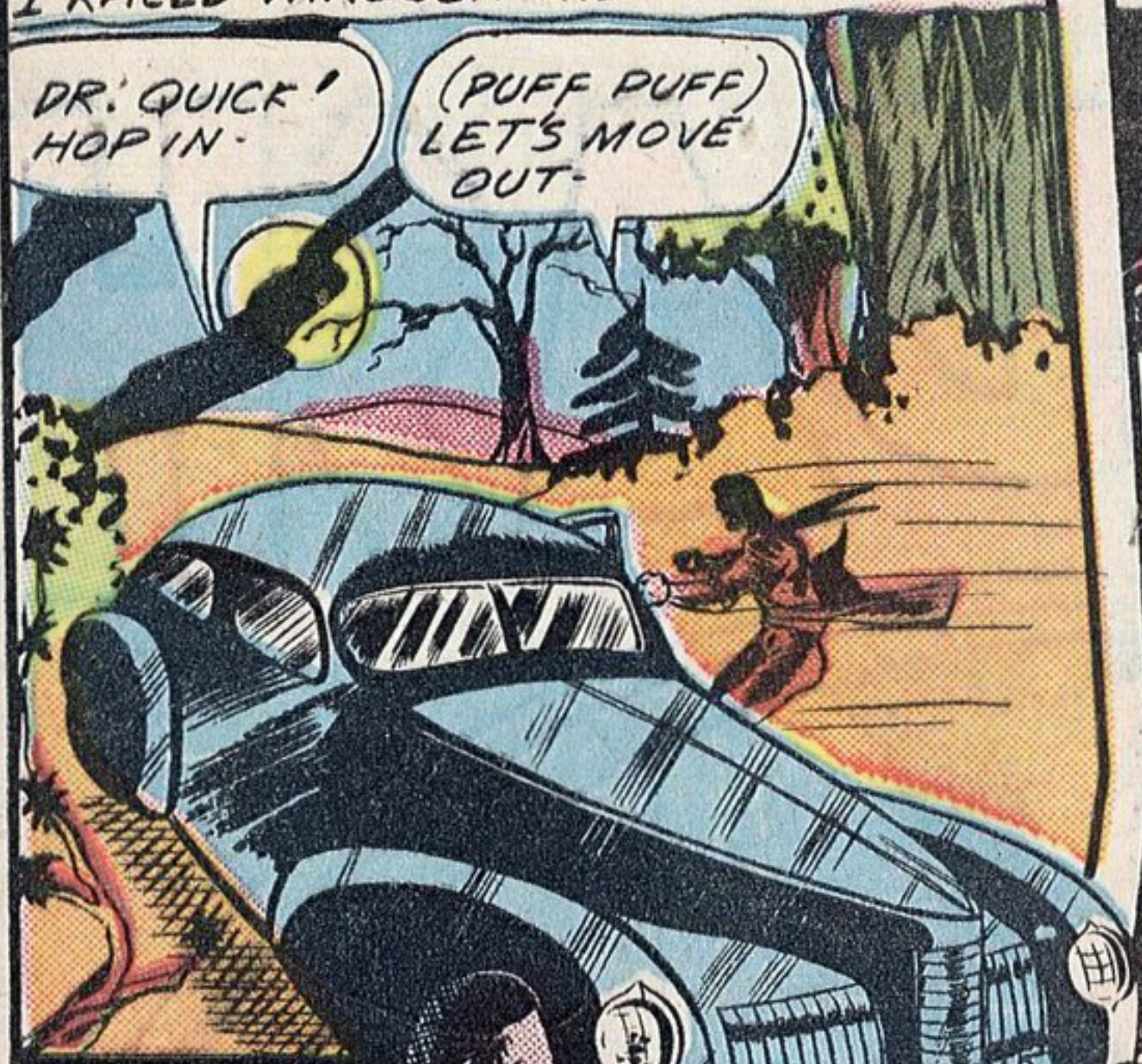
YOU SEE, QUICK, BOTH KEYS ARE NEEDED TO OPEN THE LOCK! I SENT THE ONE YOU HAVE TO ENGLAND! NOW WE CAN GATHER THE PAPERS!



I RACED THROUGH THE WOODS.

DR. QUICK!
HOP IN.

(PUFF PUFF)
LET'S MOVE
OUT.



WE REACHED THE SEACOAST.

THERE IS
THE
SIGNAL!

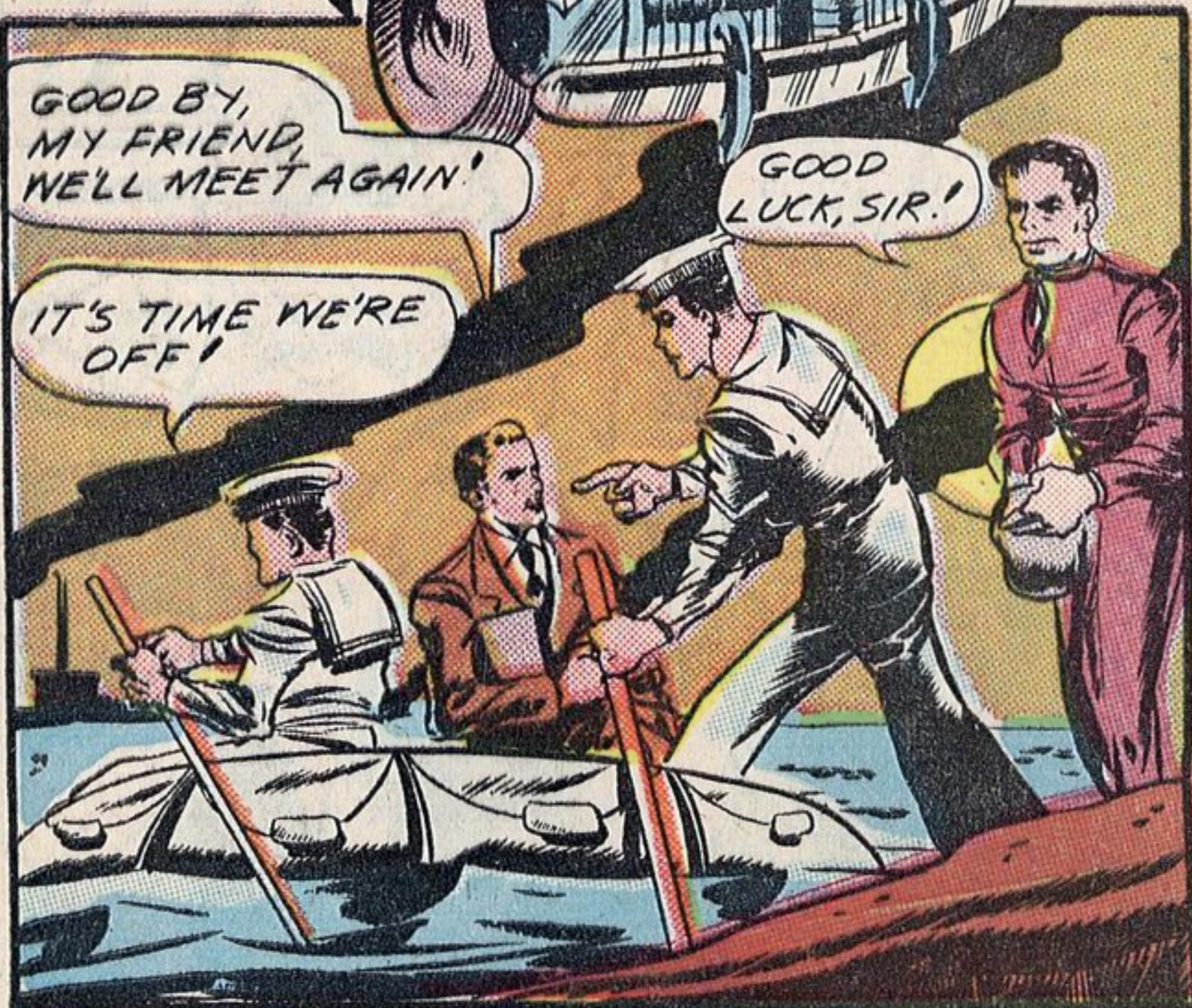
GOOD! YOU'VE
DONE YOUR
JOB WELL.



GOOD BY,
MY FRIEND,
WE'LL MEET AGAIN!

GOOD
LUCK, SIR!

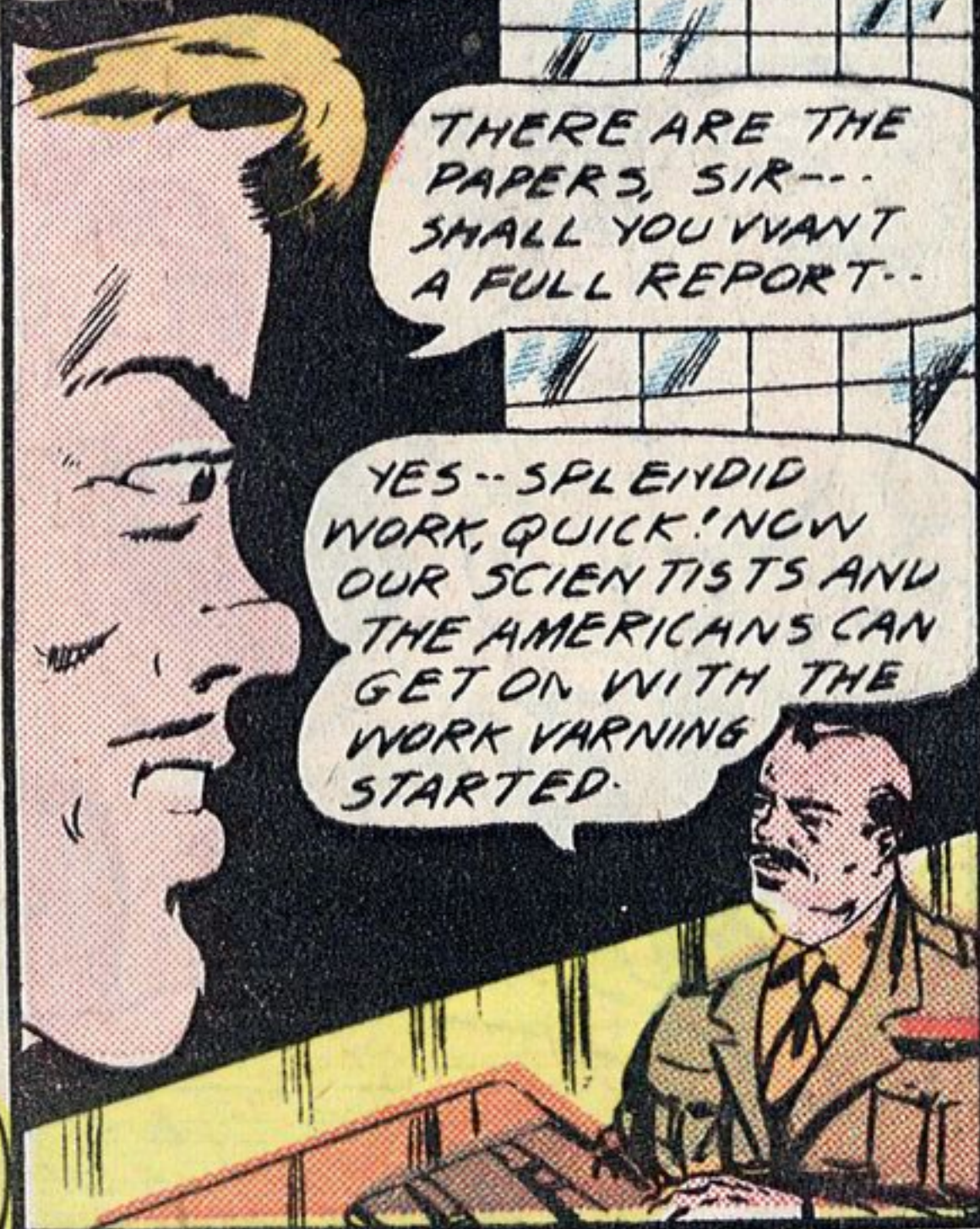
IT'S TIME WE'RE
OFF!



MY MISSION WAS ACCOMPLISHED,
FOR I ARRIVED IN ENGLAND
WITHOUT ANY MISHAPS...

THERE ARE THE
PAPERS, SIR---
SHALL YOU WANT
A FULL REPORT..

YES--SPLENDID
WORK, QUICK! NOW
OUR SCIENTISTS AND
THE AMERICANS CAN
GET ON WITH THE
WORK VARNING
STARTED.



YOU CAN IMAGINE
HOW I FELT
WHEN I READ OF
THE ATOMIC BOMB
ON JAPAN AND
WHAT IT WOULD
HAVE MEANT FOR
THE WORLD IF THE
ENEMY HAD
DISCOVERED IT-
THEY WOULD
HAVE, BUT FOR
DR. VARNING
AND THIS KEY-

THAT, MY FRIEND, IS THE STORY OF
THE SKELETON KEY! YOU MUST
COME SOON AGAIN AND HEAR
ANOTHER TALE ABOUT
MY KEYS!

I SURELY
WILL, YOU
CAN BET
ON THAT!

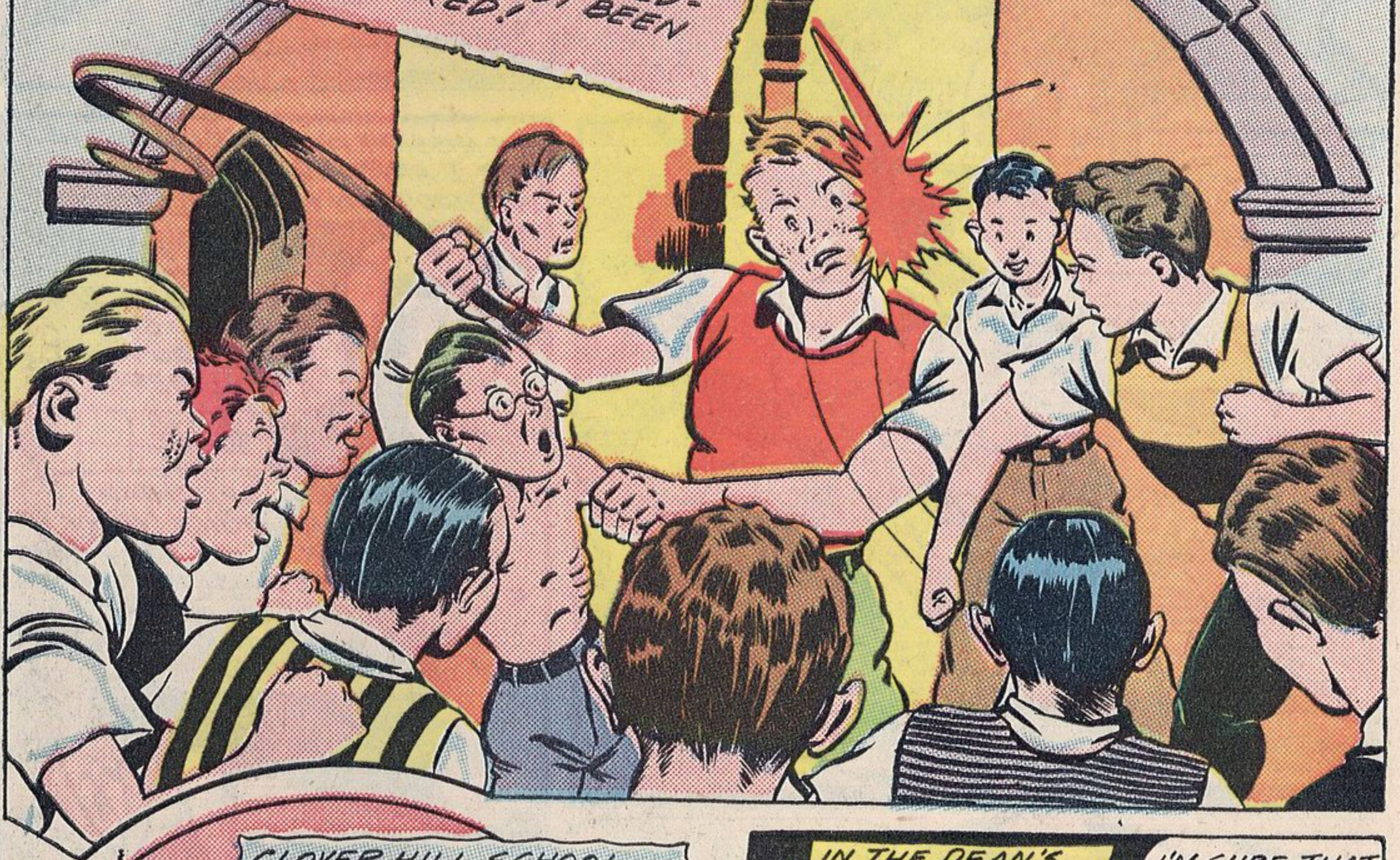


THE
END



DICK DASH

BACK FROM WAR TORN EUROPE,
DICK DASH IS ENTERED INTO
A PRIVATE SCHOOL WHERE HE
LEARNS THAT ALL THE WOULD-
BE DICTATORS HAVE NOT BEEN
CONQUERED!



CLOVER HILL SCHOOL
FOR BOYS IS ABOUT TO
GET A NEW STUDENT--
DICK DASH!

LOOKS LIKE A
LOVELY PLACE, DICK,
BUT I GUESS IT
WILL BE PRETTY
TAME AFTER YOUR
EXPERIENCES
ABROAD!

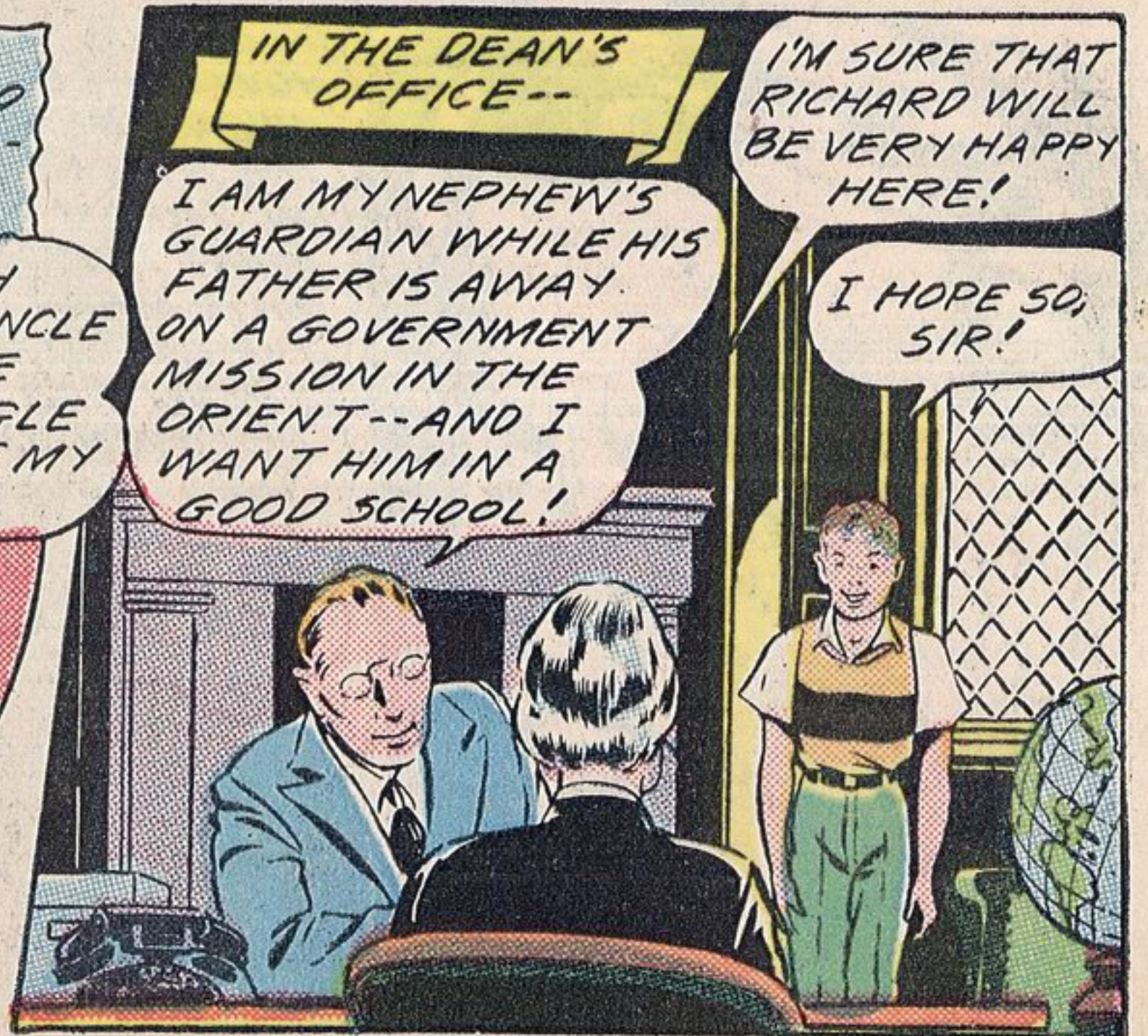
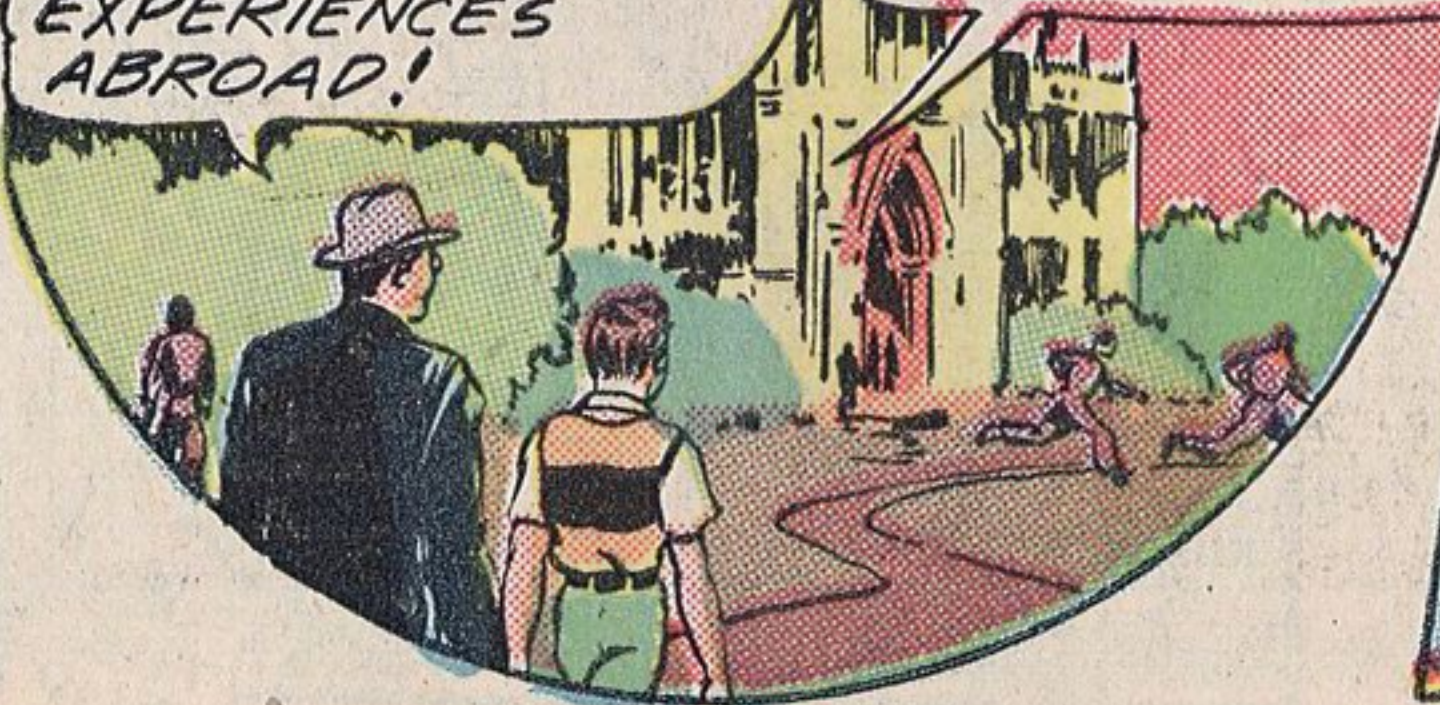
I HAD ENOUGH
EXCITEMENT, UNCLE
JOHN-- I'LL BE
GLAD TO MINGLE
WITH BOYS OF MY
OWN AGE!

IN THE DEAN'S
OFFICE--

I AM MY NEPHEW'S
GUARDIAN WHILE HIS
FATHER IS AWAY
ON A GOVERNMENT
MISSION IN THE
ORIENT-- AND I
WANT HIM IN A
GOOD SCHOOL!

I'M SURE THAT
RICHARD WILL
BE VERY HAPPY
HERE!

I HOPE SO,
SIR!



LATER, DICK IS ENROLLED AND ASSIGNED TO A ROOM--

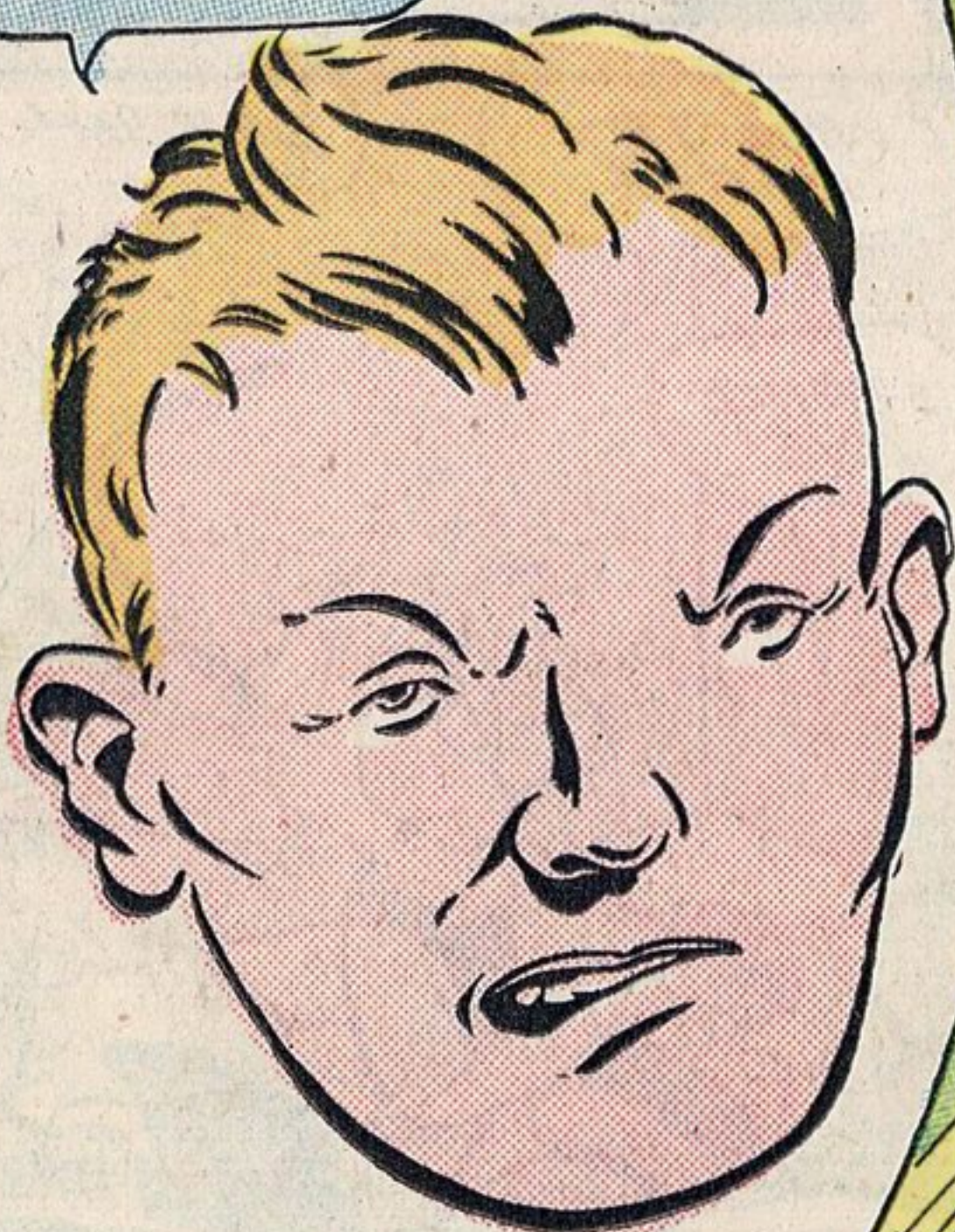
ARE YOU THE NEW GUY?

WHY--ER--
YES--WON'T YOU FELLOWS
COME IN?

WE'LL COME IN ALL
RIGHT--JUST LONG ENOUGH
TO TELL YOU THAT YOU'D
BETTER BE AT THE
KANGAROO COURT IN THE
BASEMENT TONIGHT! ALL
FRESHMEN HERE GO
THROUGH IT-- AND I'M
A JUDGE!

OH--I GET A
HAZING, EH?
SURE--I'LL
BE THERE!

YOU'D BETTER
BE THERE!



THAT NIGHT A STRANGE
PROCESSION MOVES THROUGH
THE DORMITORY HALLS--

GEE, THIS
IS EXCITING!
I'VE NEVER
BEEN HAZED
BEFORE!

HA-HA--YOU MIGHT
NOT THINK IT'S SO
MUCH FUN WHEN
IT'S ALL OVER!

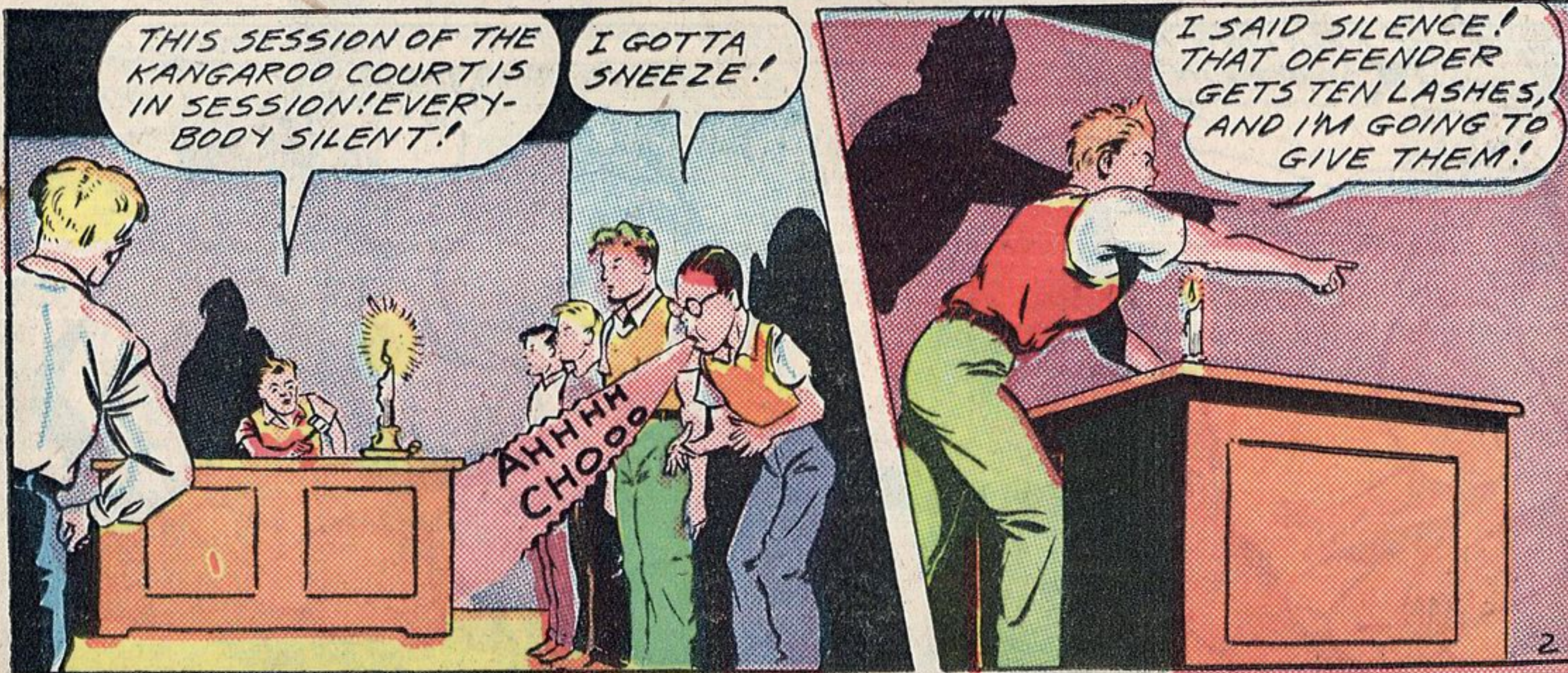


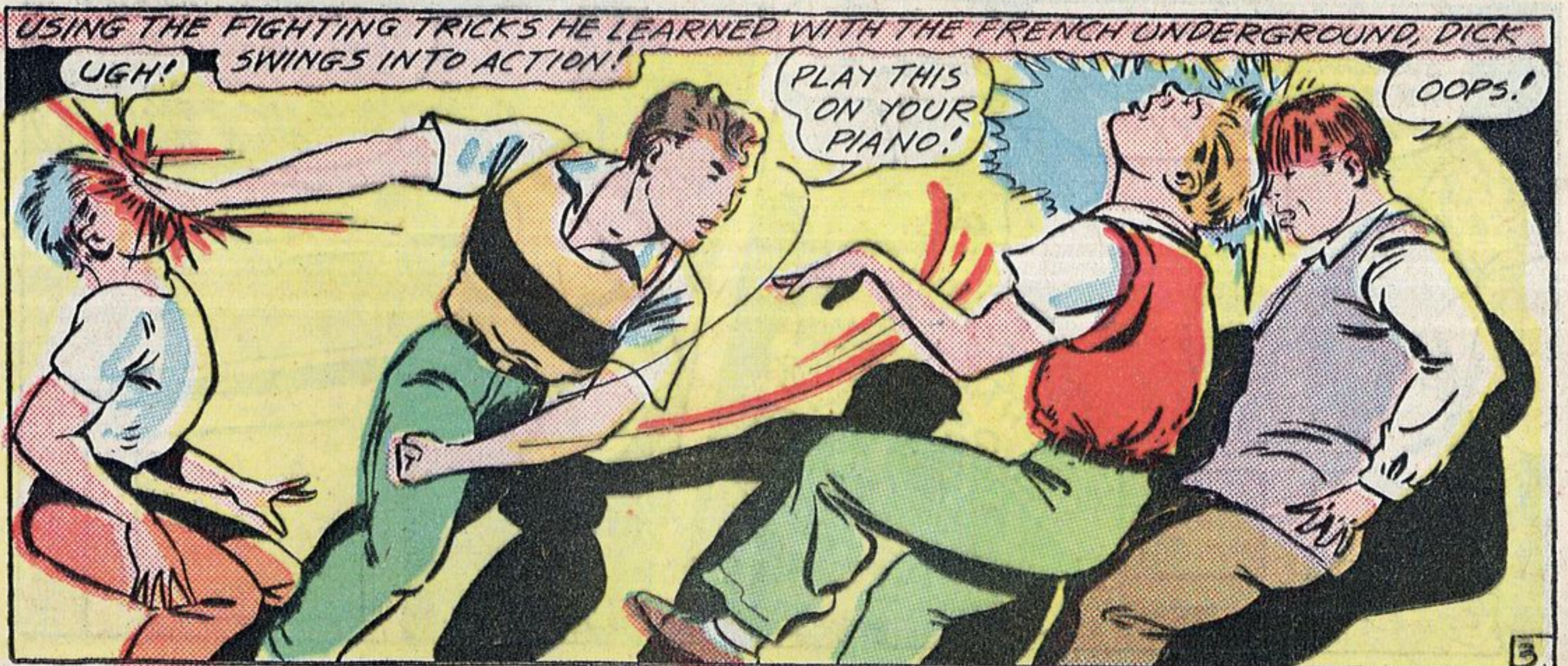
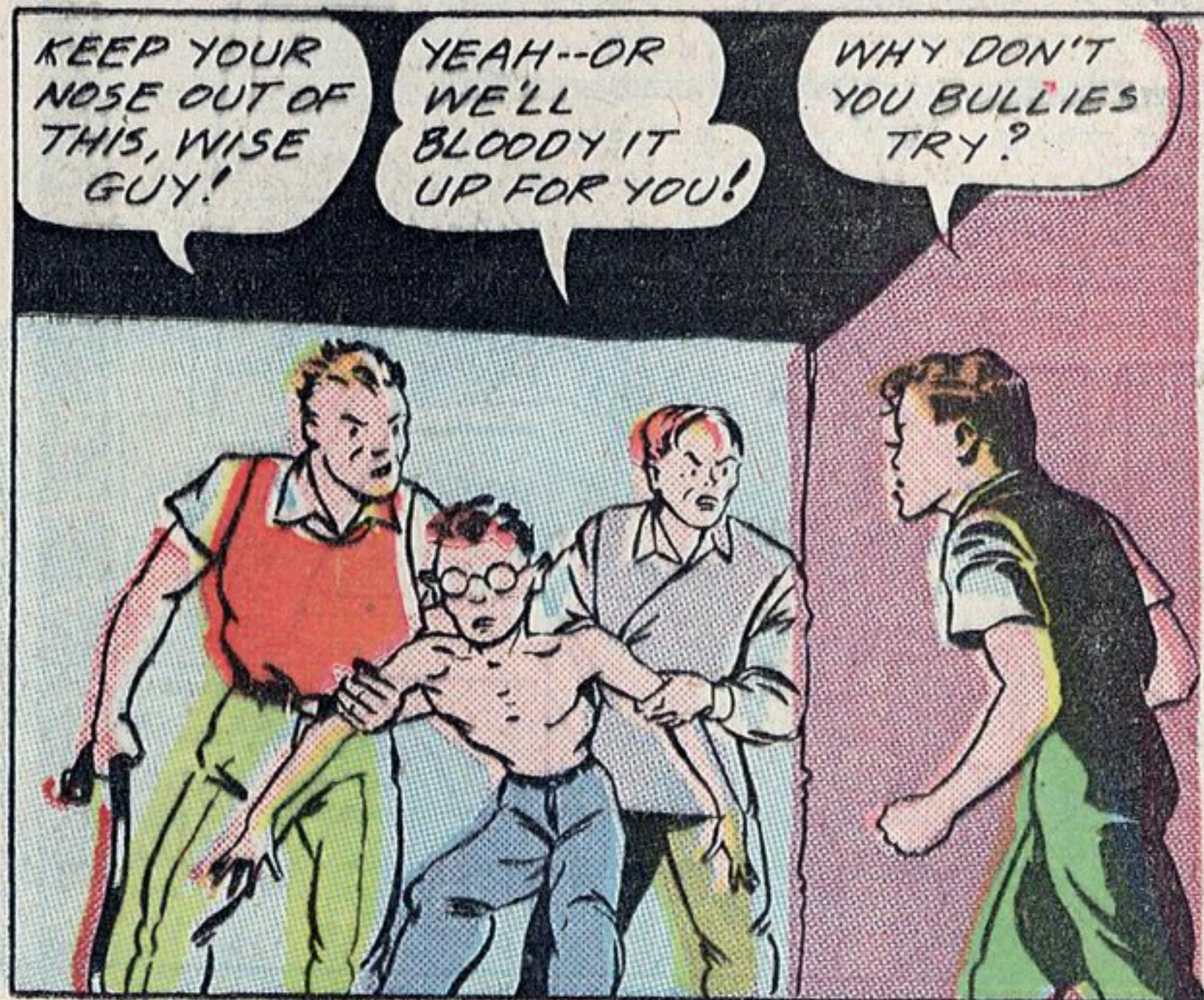
THIS SESSION OF THE
KANGAROO COURT IS
IN SESSION! EVERY-
BODY SILENT!

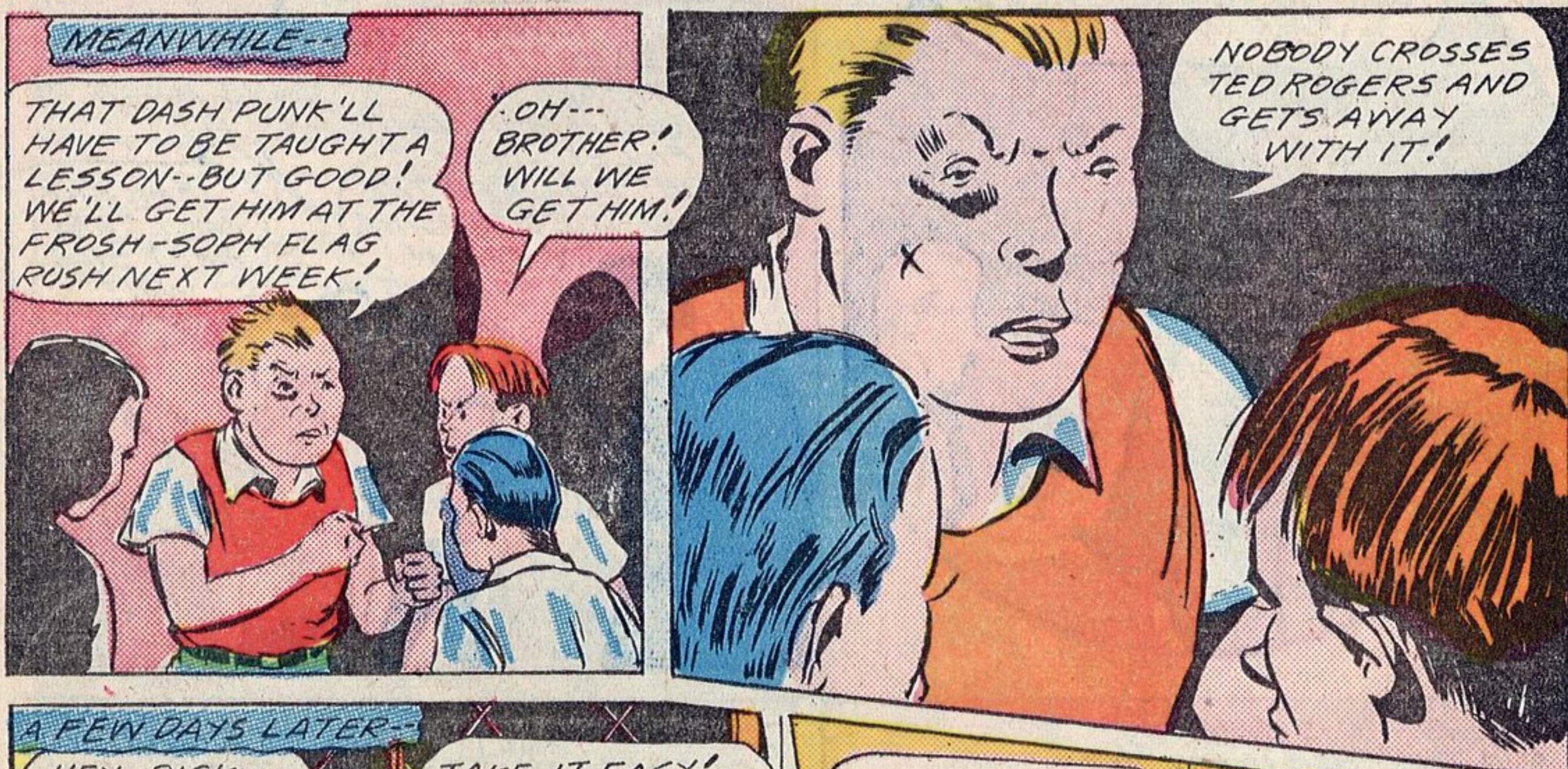
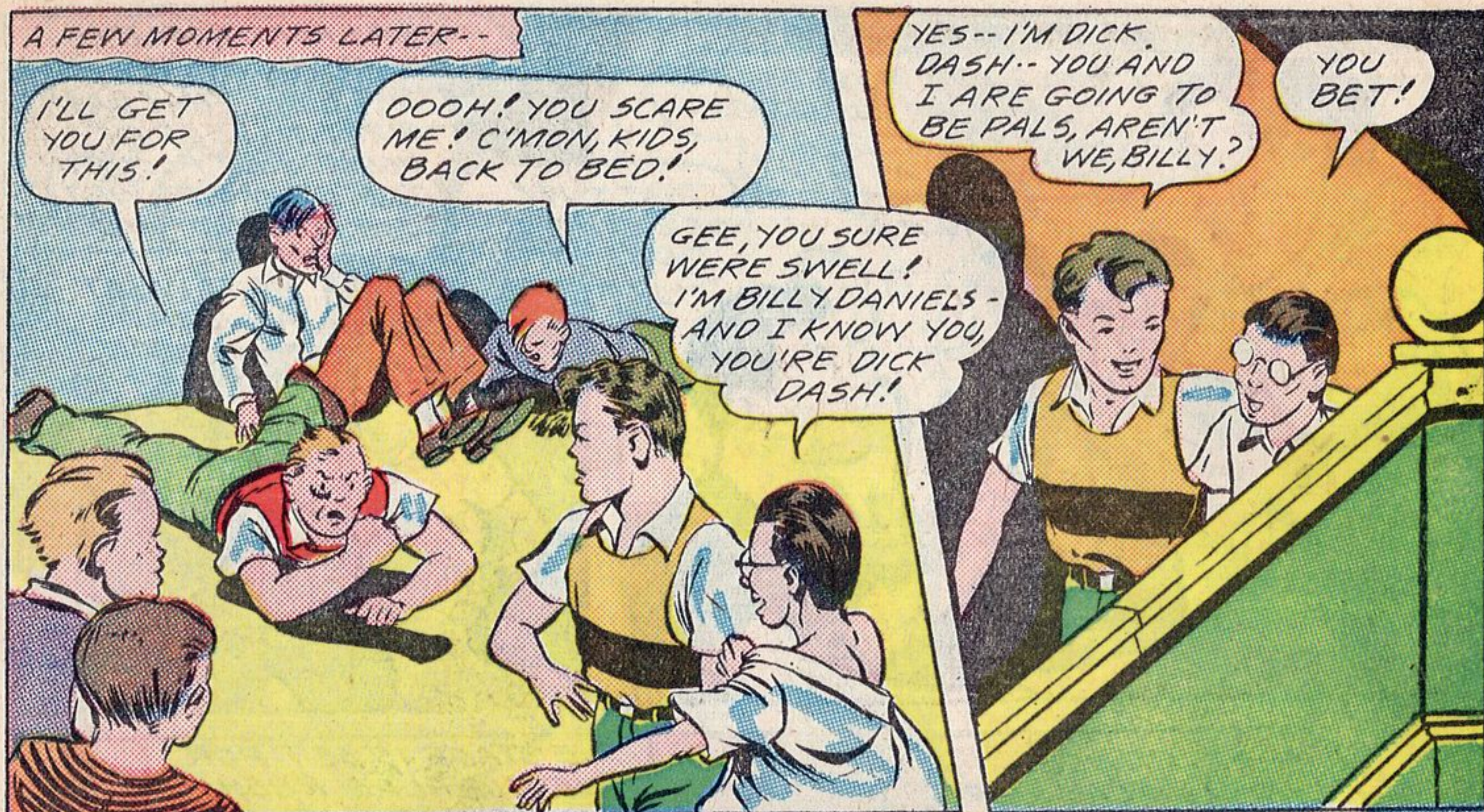
I GOTTA
SNEEZE!

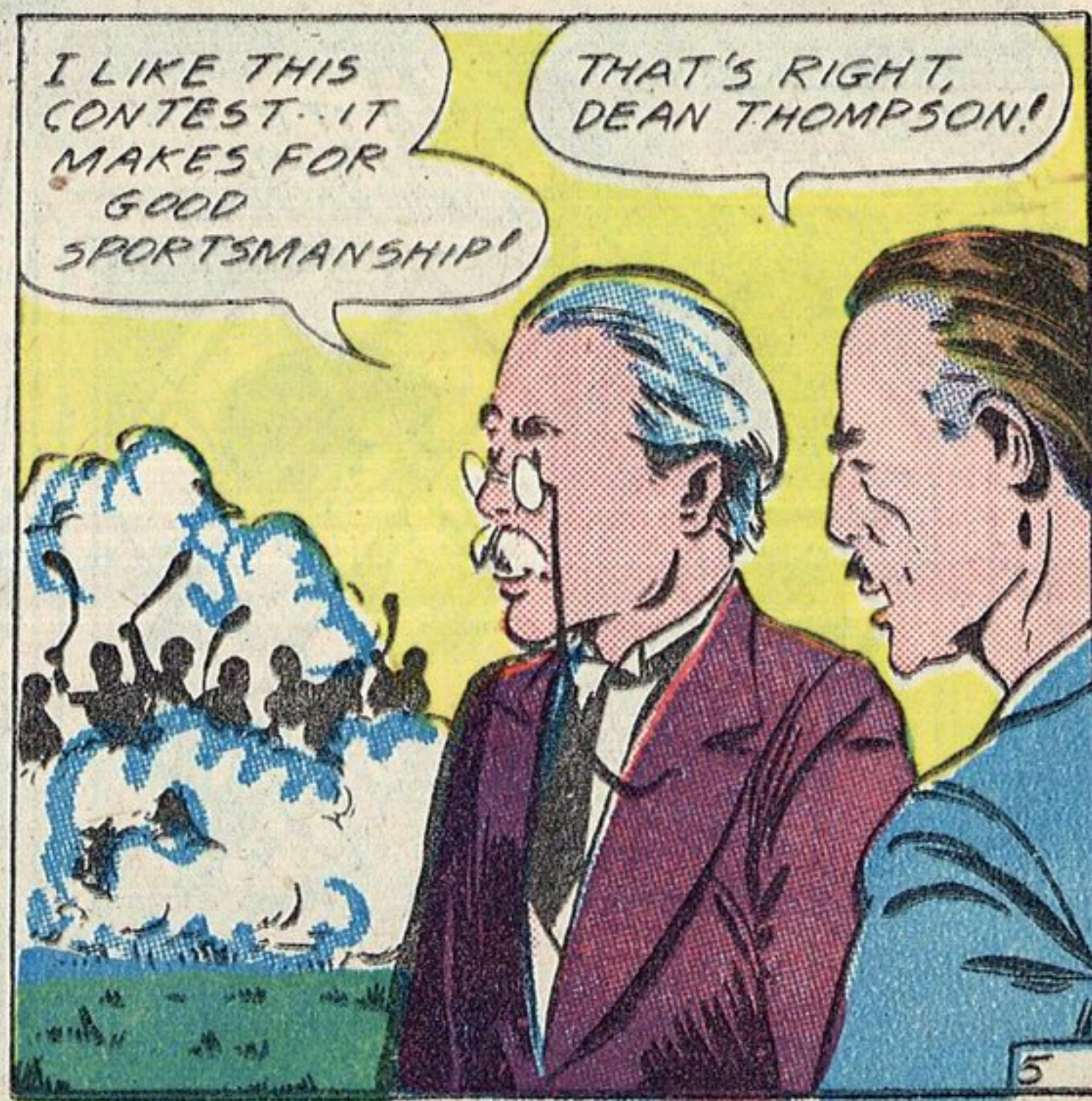
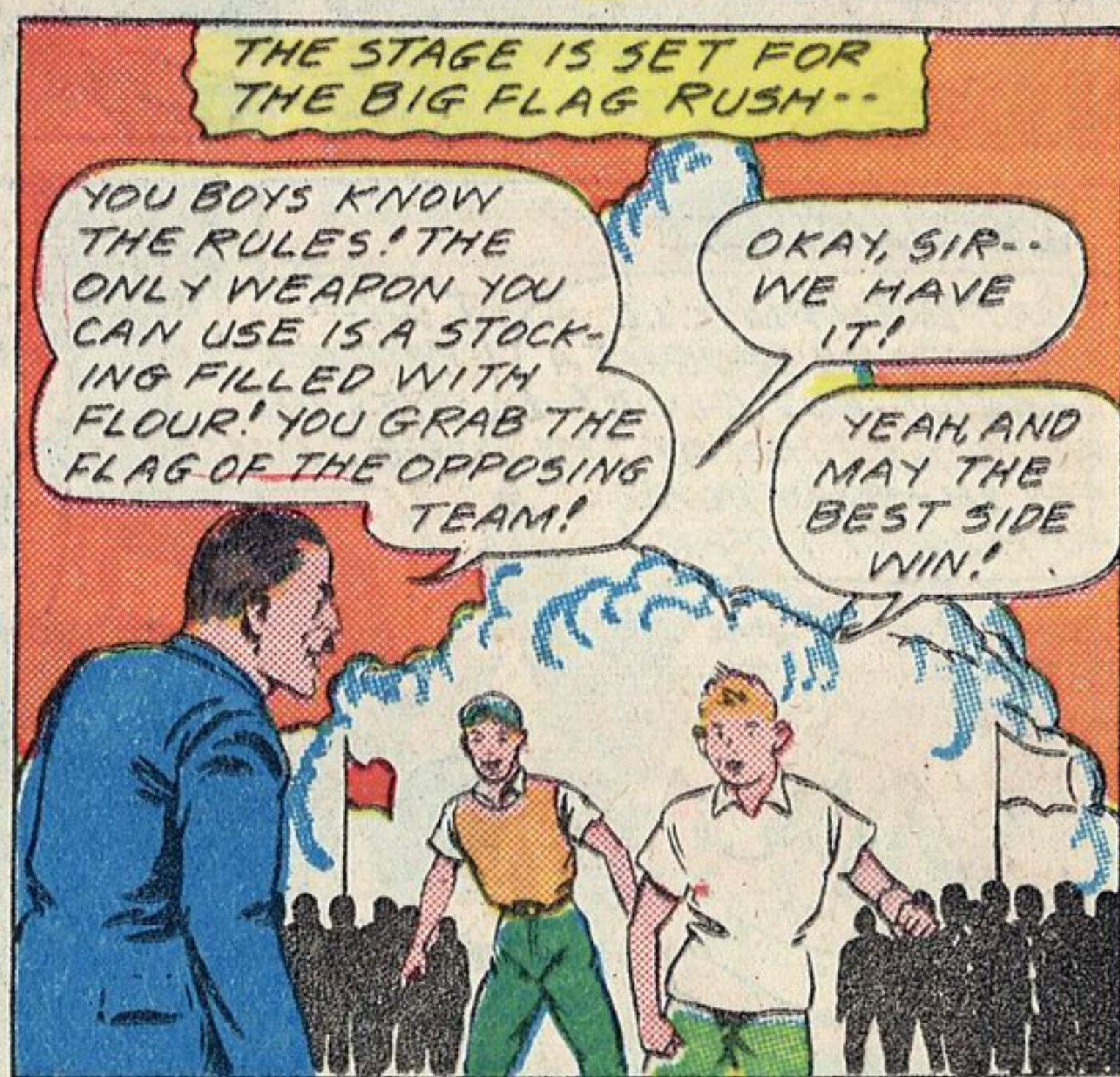
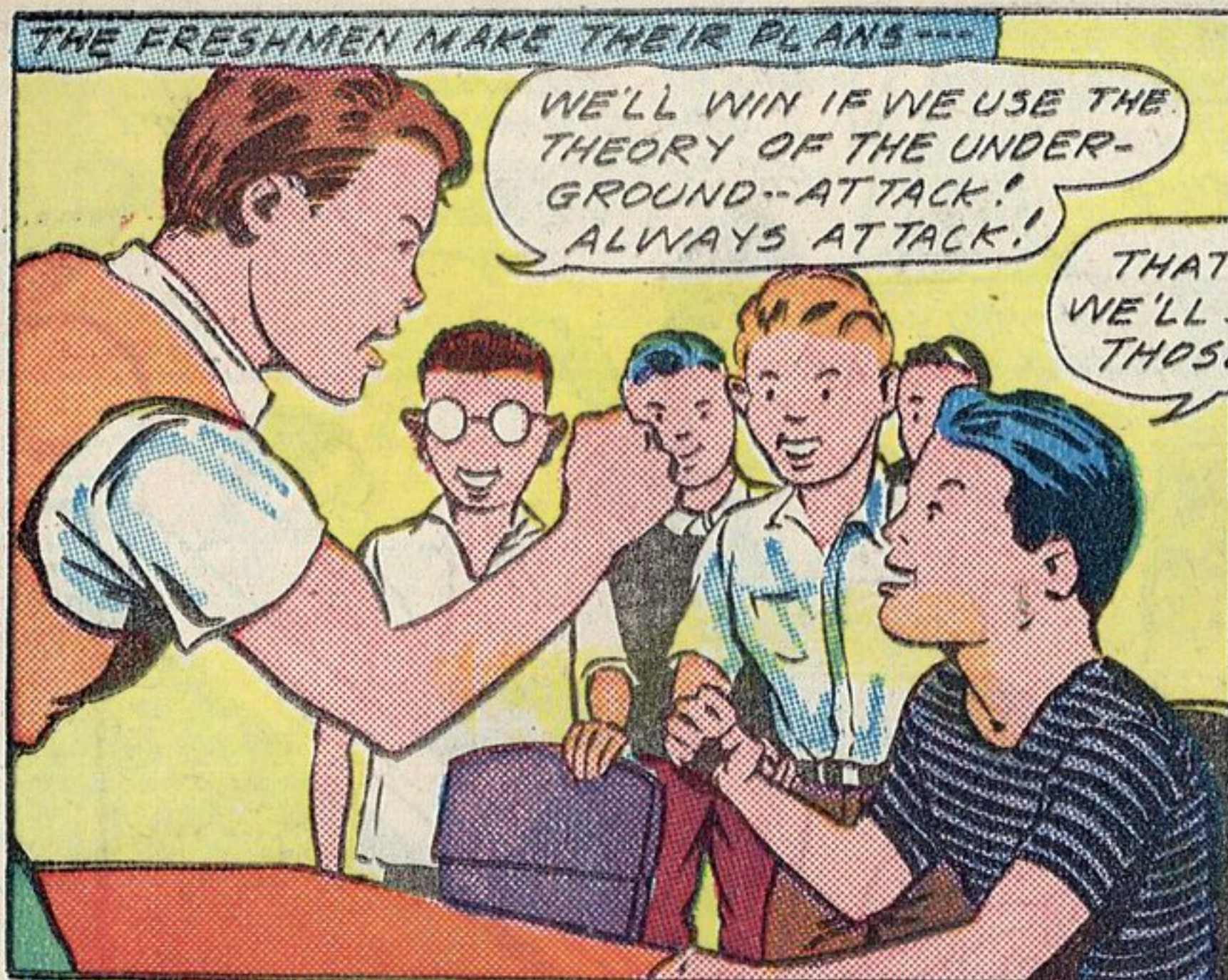
AHHH
CHOO

I SAID SILENCE!
THAT OFFENDER
GETS TEN LASHES,
AND I'M GOING TO
GIVE THEM!









BUT SPORTSMANSHIP IS NOT
IN THE BULLY'S VOCABULARY...

GET THAT
DASH!

OKAY!

TAKE
THAT!

MY
ARM!

THERE'S MORE
THAN FLOUR
IN THAT
STOCKING!

ULP!

BY BRINGING THOSE
OTHER GUYS TO THE
DEAN, WE'LL GET TO
THE BOTTOM OF THIS!

OKAY!

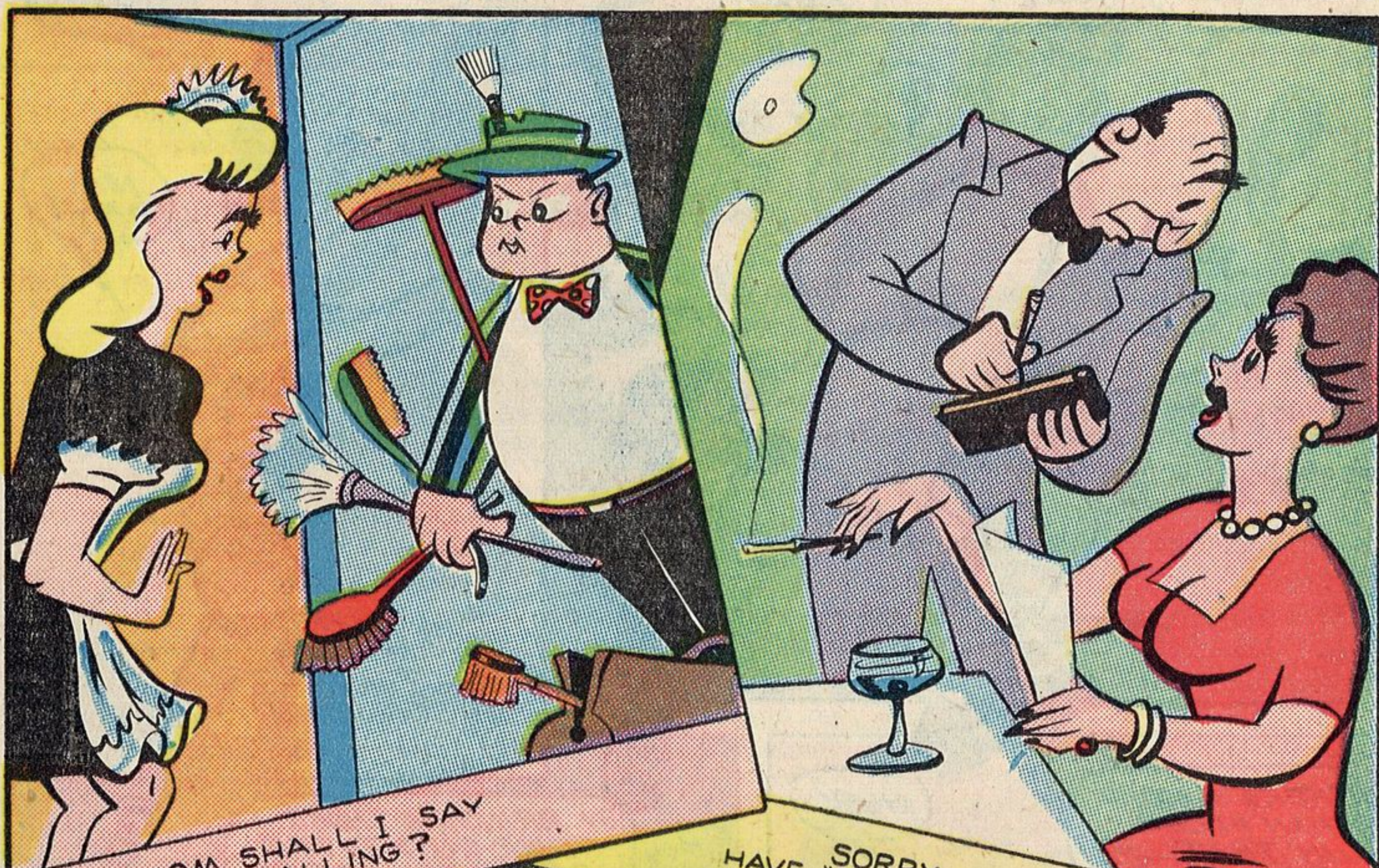
ROGERS--YOU ARE A DISGRACE
TO THIS SCHOOL! PACK YOUR
BAGS! THERE'S NO PLACE HERE
FOR A BOY OF YOUR ILK! AS FOR
YOU OTHER BOYS, YOU WILL
BE PUNISHED!

THAT'S RIGHT,
SIR! ROGERS
WAS THE LEADER.
THE RAT--USING
BUCKSHOT IN THE
FLOUR! SOMEBODY
COULD HAVE BEEN
KILLED!

THERE IS NO REST FOR
DICK DASH--THAT VERY
EVENING---

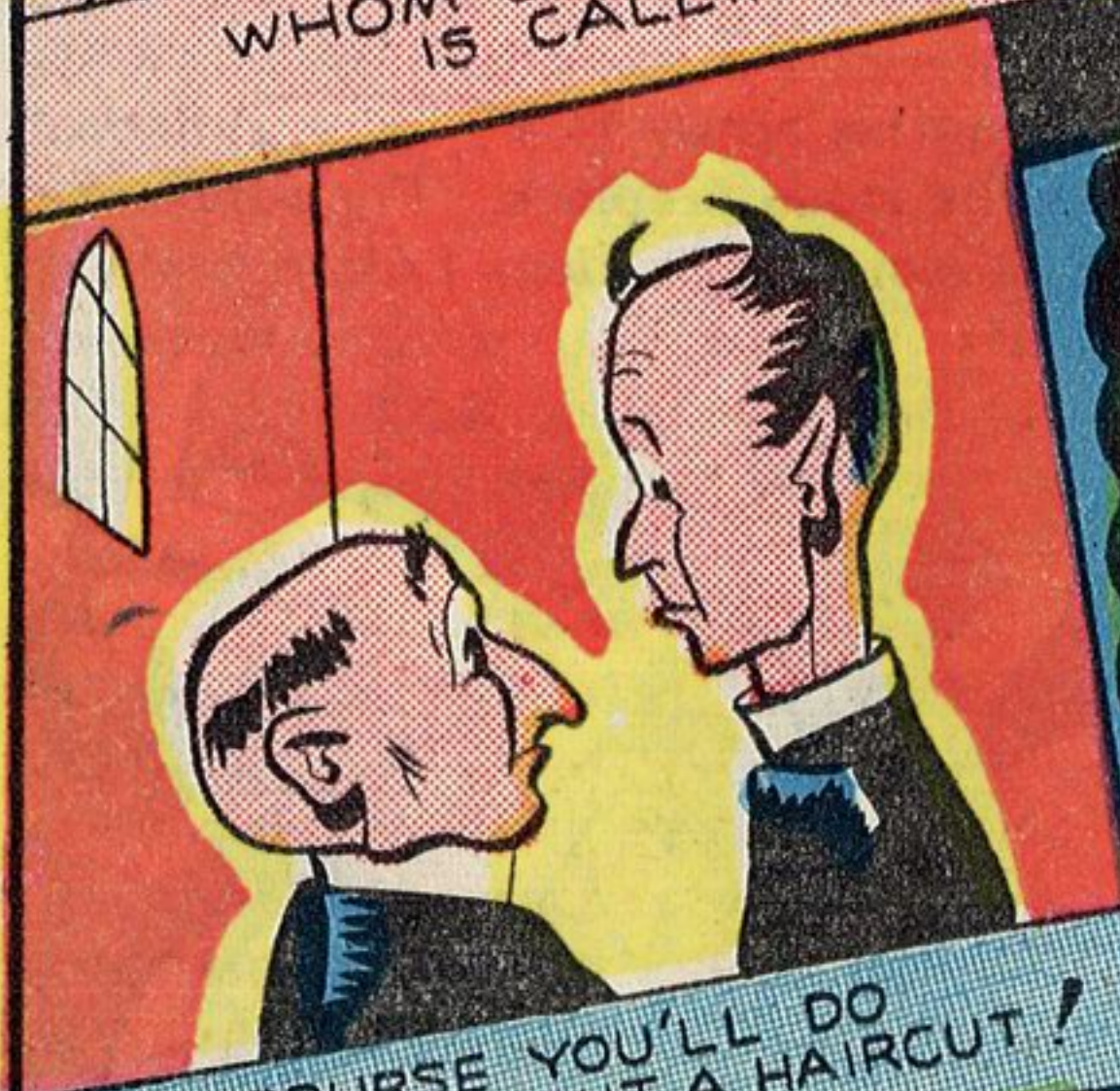
GOSH! HERE'S A TELEGRAM
FROM UNCLE JOHN! IT SAYS
THAT DAD'S MISSING IN THE
ORIENT AND UNCLE AND I
WILL HAVE TO LEAVE FOR
CHINA! CHINA! WOW!

"Keylines"



WHOM SHALL I SAY
IS CALLING?

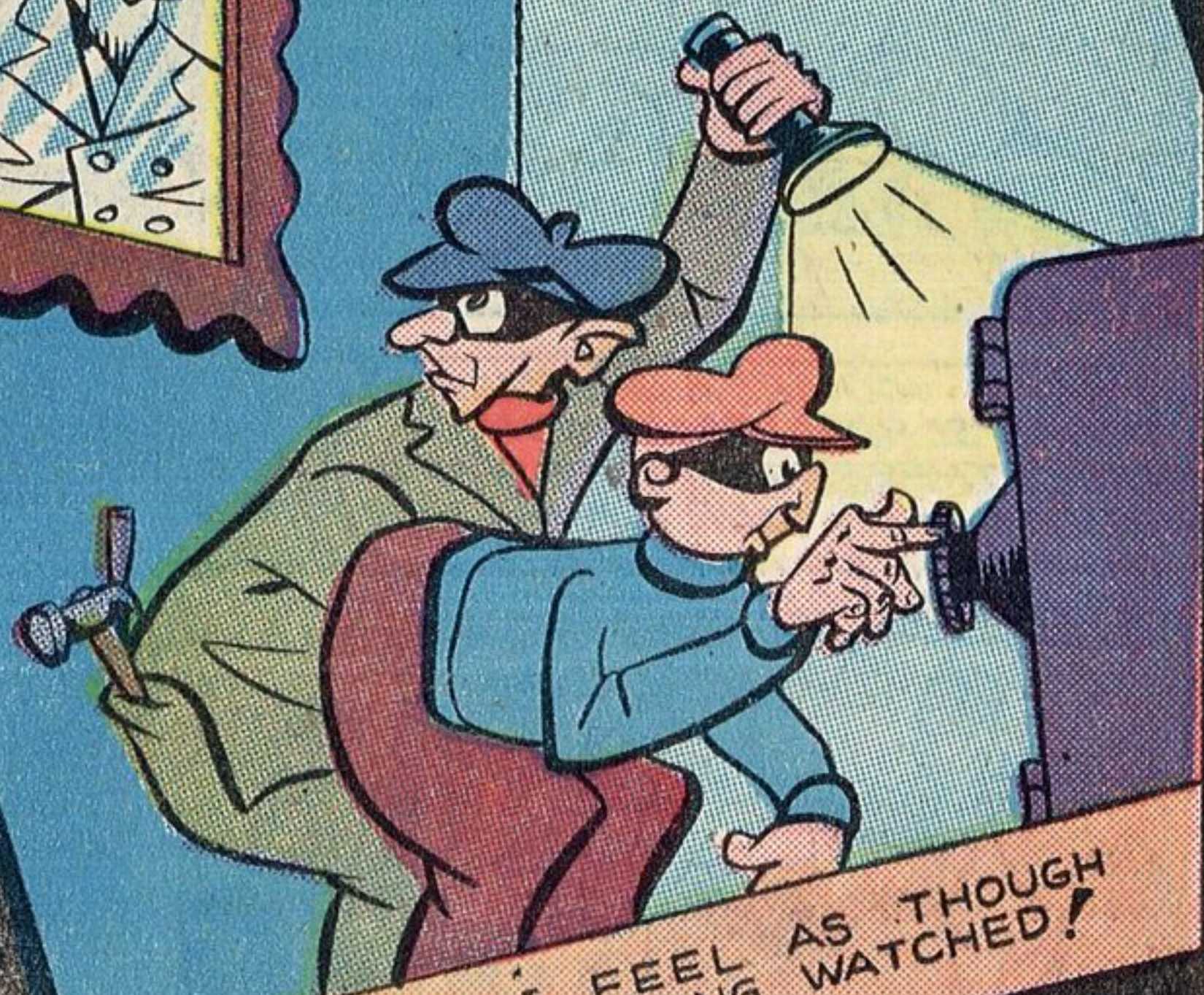
SORRY, MADAM — YOU CAN'T
HAVE "RICO PASTINA" — THAT'S
THE PROPRIETOR!



OF COURSE YOU'LL DO
SOMETHING ABOUT A HAIRCUT!



I WOULDN'T DARE GO OUT
WITHOUT A HAT IN
THIS WEATHER!



SOMEHOW I FEEL AS THOUGH
WE'RE BEING WATCHED!

burton

RED MEAT FOR KILLERS

JIM LANG, riding up Antler's main street, saw Clark Shannon, the sheriff, watching him with more than casual interest. Jim's first impulse was to ride on, but he wondered what the pudgy sheriff had on his mind.

In front of Ted Hamp's store Jim dismounted. He was tying the pack-horse he had been leading, when Shannon ambled up. Jim faced him.

"Howdy, Lang," the sheriff said brusquely. "That pack-horse is loaded as if you were goin' on a long trip. What're you workin' at, now that the fall round-up's over?"

Jim didn't like the sheriff's tone. His answer was curt.

"I'm trappin' over in the Red Hills. Been buyin' winter supplies. Any law against that?"

The sheriff's eyes narrowed.

"Where's your camp?"

Jim's face reddened. What was Shannon driving at?

"I'm campin' in the old Benton cabin below the railroad bridge on Grouse Creek," Jim growled. "Plenty of muskrats in the sloughs. Beaver, too; but I'm not catchin' those, if that's worryin' you."

The sheriff shook his head. Watching Jim's face closely, he asked:

"Mind tellin' where you were the day before yesterday?"

"Certainly not," said Jim. "I was runnin' a line of coyote traps and a few poison sets on the ridges back of the Gold Point mine road." Jim untied his pack-horse. "Now, if you don't mind, I'll be headin' for camp before it starts snowin'. If you're so interested in my business, why don't you ride out and scout around, Mr. Sheriff?"

"Don't be surprised if I do," Shannon replied. "Tom Burns was killed the day before yesterday. And he was robbed of the Gold Point mine pay-roll—several thousand dollars in currency. It happened on the Gold Point road."

* * *

JIM stared, open-mouthed. Tom Burns dead! Jim flipped dust with the toe of his boot.

"I begin to understand," he said slowly. "I've had trouble with Tom and was in the vicinity where he was killed. Smart work, Sheriff!"

"I'm not insinuatn' you were implicated,

Lang," denied the sheriff. "I've long known you as a square-shootin' kid. Just keep your eyes open."

When Jim left town he saw Shannon leading a saddled horse from the livery stable. Under the circumstances, Jim admitted, the sheriff had good reason to hold him under suspicion.

Snow-clouds hugged the high mountains. Jim felt the raw wind cut through his coat.

It was mid-afternoon before he rode into the red lava hills where lay his trap-line. Once he left the trail to inspect an oak thicket where he had tossed some poisoned meat. He noticed fresh coyote tracks, but the meat was undisturbed. Jim preferred traps to poison. However, a couple of old killer coyotes were too smart for steel traps and had continued killing the young stock of a near-by ranch. Jim had permission from Santa Fe to use poison in this instance since there were no government hunters available for the Red Hills area.

* * *

IT WAS dark and snowing when Jim rode, splashing, across the creek ford by his cabin.

He soon had his horses cared for, and flames crackling in the stone fireplace. For supper he ate canned salmon and crackers he had brought from town. He was too tired to fry a steak off the quarter of beef hanging in the lean-to.

Rising wind rattled the roof. Jim frowned. With coyote pelts topping the fur market he didn't want the first fall of snow to be a real blizzard and bury his newly strung trap-line. Also he wanted to get the two old coyote killers with his poison set before government hunters came in to do the job and spoil his trapping. One consolation, though: In a bad storm Clark Shannon likely wouldn't be snooping around to mess up the trap-line.

Jim crawled into his bunk early and lay thinking about the tragedy that had befallen Tom Burns. A long-drawn-out scream sepi him piling out of his blankets. As his head cleared he realized the noise was the whistling of a freight engine. But his heart still pounded as he listened to bumpy cars rumbling over Grouse Creek bridge.

Jim couldn't go back to sleep. After a while he heard coyotes yapping. He wondered if they had caught the scent he had scattered back on the ridges.

Suddenly he heard feet crunching in the snow outside the cabin. He dressed quickly and took down his rifle from the deer-horn rack. There was loud knocking on the door.

"Who's there?" Jim challenged.

"The sheriff and two deputies," he heard Shannon say. "Let us in!"

Jim hesitated, gripped with sharp apprehension. Had the sheriff come to arrest him, or was he merely seeking shelter?

Finally, Jim unbarred the door.

The three men stamped inside. Jim lit the lantern. While he adjusted the wick one of the men picked up Jim's rifle. Jim whirled to face the newcomers, instinctively sensing something was wrong.

He saw Shannon looking sheepish and scared, his hands tucked, Chinese fashion, into the sleeves of his coat.

* * *

SHANNON lowered his hands slightly. Jim saw the lantern light reflect on polished steel.

The sheriff was handcuffed!

Hawk-face glared at Jim.

"Listen, Wolf-skinner," he snarled. "Your dumb friend, the sheriff here, upset our timetable and we missed that freight train. We're cold and hungry. Stir up the fire and cook a meal for two. Those are orders!"

"I'm not takin' orders," Jim said defiantly.

"Is that so?" the tall man breathed. "I'll tell you a little story, son; then maybe you'll change your mind. This morning Shorty and me had a partner, Ricky. Ricky wouldn't play ball and tried to duck out with the three grand we picked up. Ricky's dead."

Shannon was almost blubbering.

"Do—as they—say, Jim!" he pleaded. "I saw — what they did to Burns — and that fellow Ricky. They mean business."

"Thanks for the plug, pal." Shorty grinned.

JIM started to open a can of salmon. The tall man protested.

"Nix on the goldfish," he growled. "We like red meat. Got any?"

"A quarter of beef in the lean-to," Jim admitted. "It'll take a while to cook."

"We'll wait," the man said.

Closely watched by the two armed men, Jim went in the lean-to and cut two thick slabs of steak. After having to hunt for the salt can he seasoned the meat and it soon was browned in the hot skillet. Jim served it medium rare and juicy.

"Sorry you fellows aren't eating with us," mocked Shorty, "but you both know too much to have any further need for food. There'll be more fresh meat for the wolves by morning."

Suddenly Shorty's fork clattered onto his plate. A puzzled look came into the man's dull eyes. He tried to rise and lurched sideways onto the floor.

* * *

HAWK-FACE grabbed his gun and stood up. He stared at Jim with a half-frozen grin on his sallow face. Jim felt petrified as the gun slowly rose and back of the weapon he could see the cold, deadly menace of the man's eyes.

Then Hawk-face jumped as if struck by lightning. The shot roared in the room. But the gun had not been aimed. The tall killer collapsed beside his partner.

Jim freed Shannon with a key from Shorty's pocket.

"Coyote poison is strong seasoning," Jim stated grimly. "Too bad their pelts are no good."

STATEMENT OF THE OWNERSHIP, MANAGEMENT, CIRCULATION, ETC., REQUIRED BY THE ACTS OF CONGRESS OF AUGUST 24, 1912, AND MARCH 3, 1933, OF "KEY COMICS", published monthly at Springfield, Mass., for October 1, 1944.

State of New York, County of New York, ss.

Before me, a Notary Public in and for the State and county aforesaid, personally appeared Joseph A. Rubinstein, who, having been duly sworn according to law, deposes and says that he is the Business Manager of the "KEY COMICS" and that the following is, to the best of his knowledge and belief, a true statement of the ownership, management (and if a daily paper, the circulation), etc., of the aforesaid publication for the date shown in the above caption, required by the Act of August 24, 1912, as amended by the Act of March 3, 1933, embodied in section 537, Postal Laws and Regulations, printed on the reverse of this form, to wit:

1. That the names and addresses of the publisher, editor, managing editor, and business managers are:

Publisher, J. A. Ruby, 551 Fifth Ave., N. Y. 17, N. Y.; Editor, J. A. Ruby, 551 Fifth Ave., N. Y. 17, N. Y.; Business Manager, Joseph A. Rubinstein, 551 Fifth Ave., N. Y. 17, N. Y.

2. That the owner is: (If owned by a corporation, its name and address must be stated and also immediately thereunder the names and addresses of stockholders owning or holding one per cent or more of total amount of stock. If not owned by a corporation, the names and addresses of the individual owners must be given. If owned by a firm, company, or other unincorporated concern, the name and address, as well as those of each individual member, must be given.)

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3. That the known bondholders, mortgagees, and other security holders owning or holding 1 per cent or more of the total amount of bonds, mortgages, or other securities are: (If there are none, so state.)

None.

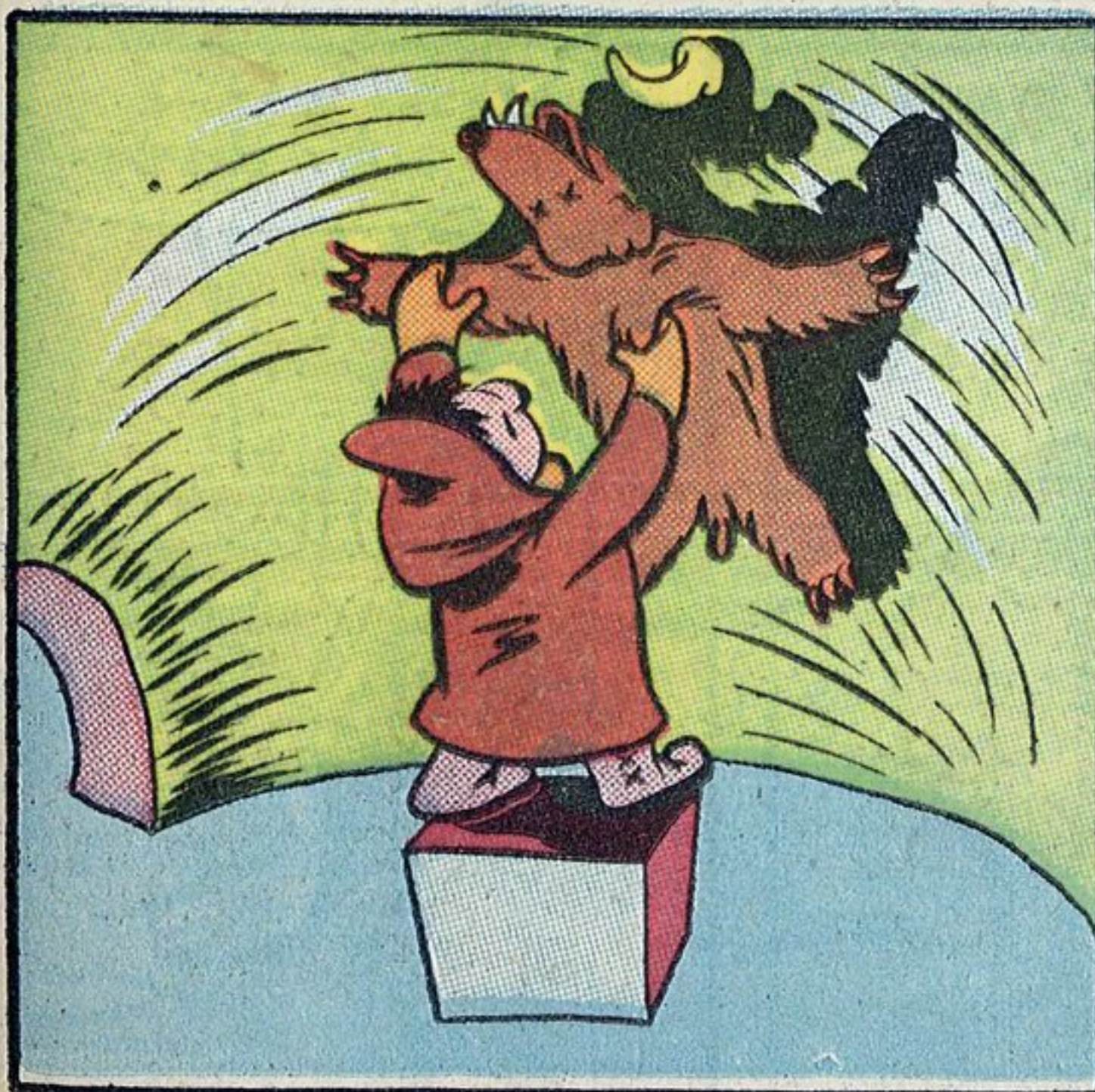
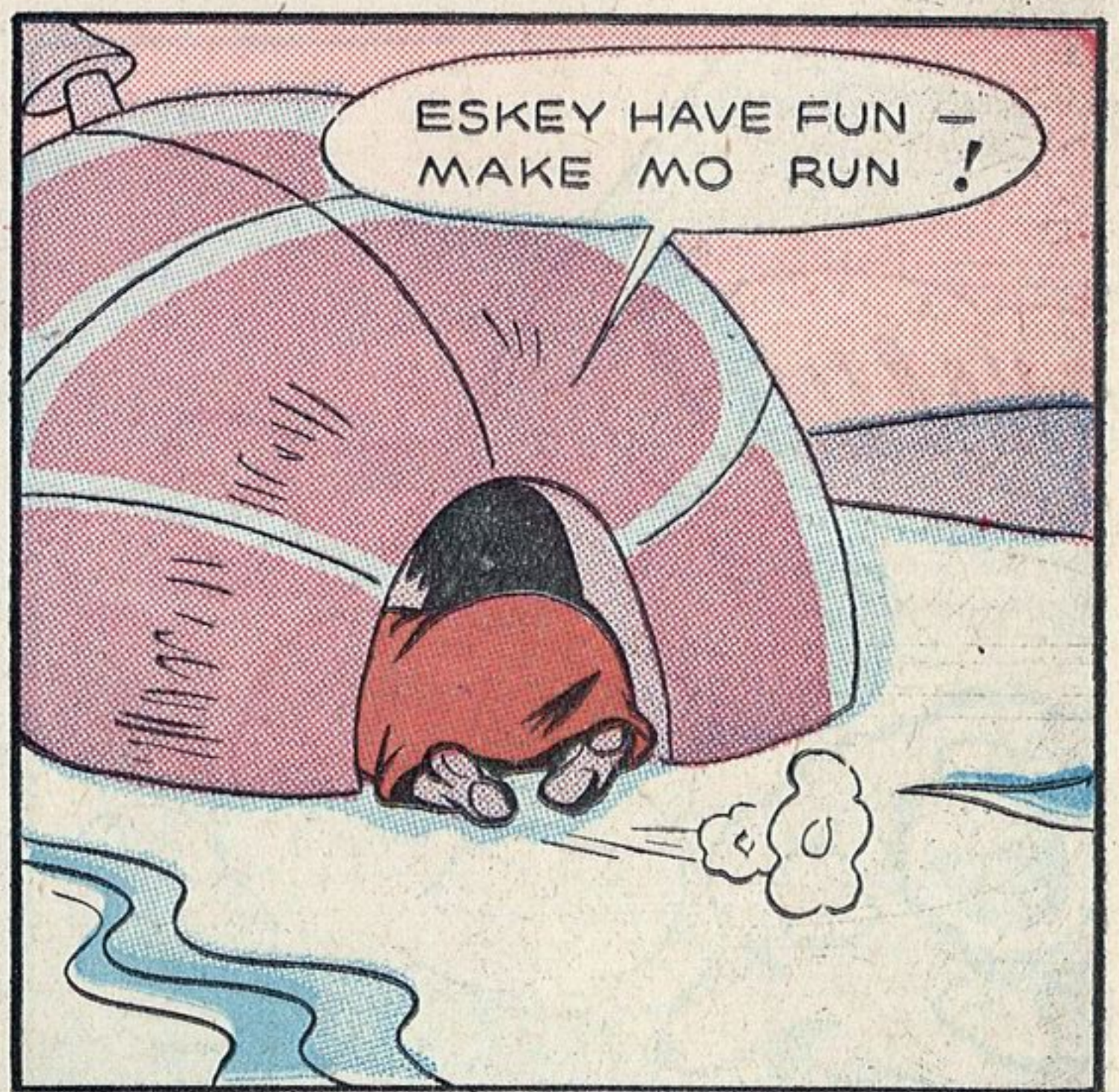
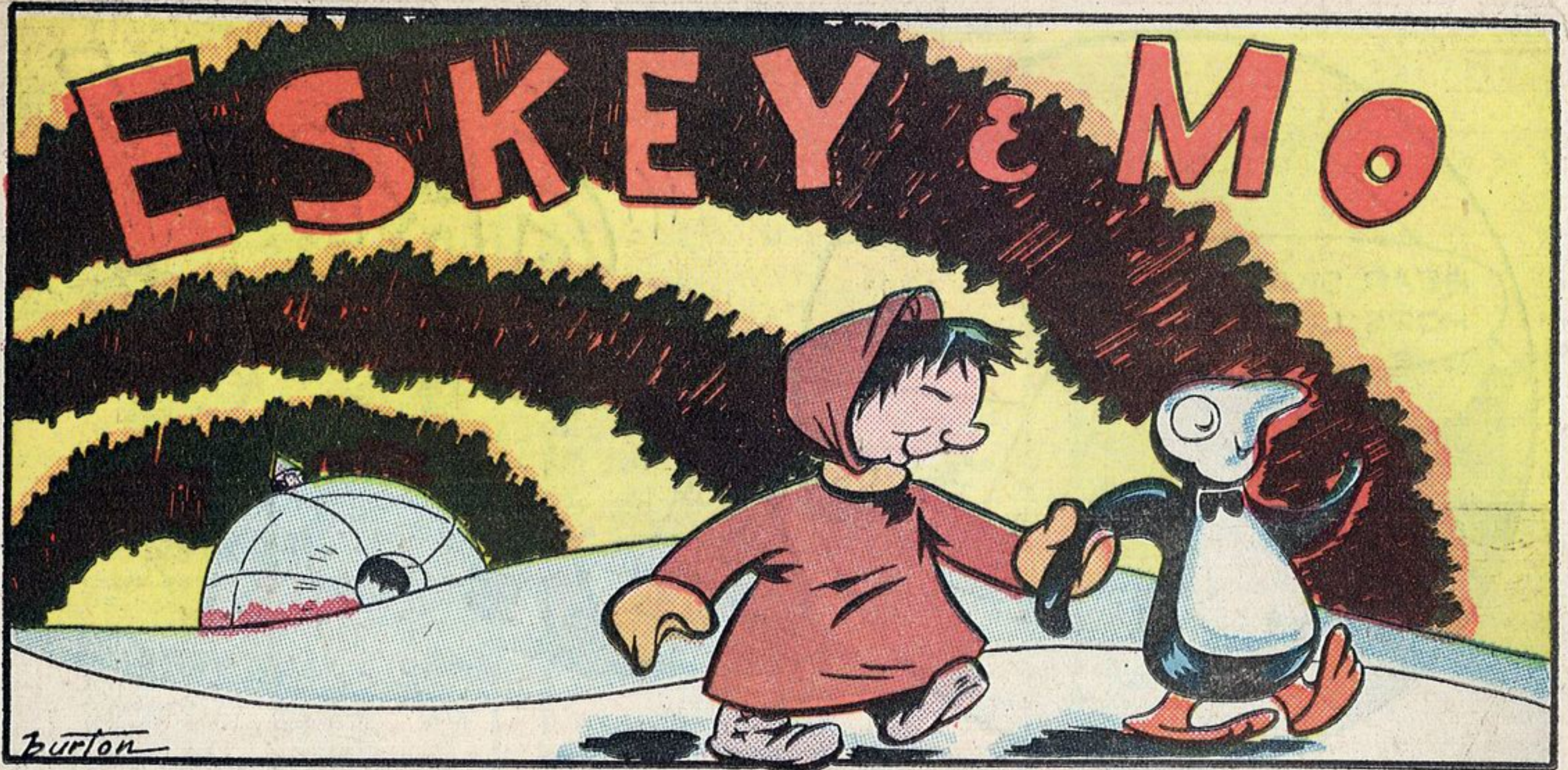
4. That the two paragraphs next above, giving the names of the owners, stockholders, and security holders, if any, contain not only the list of stockholders and security holders as they appear upon the books of the company but also, in cases where the stockholder or security holder appears upon the books of the company as trustee or in any other fiduciary relation, the name of the person or corporation for whom such trustee is acting, is given; also that the said two paragraphs contain statements embracing affiant's full knowledge and belief as to the circumstances and conditions under which stockholders and security holders who do not appear upon the books of the company as trustees, hold stock and securities in a capacity other than that of a bona fide owner; and this affiant has no reason to believe that any other person, association, or corporation has any interest direct or indirect in the said stock, bonds or other securities than as so stated by him.

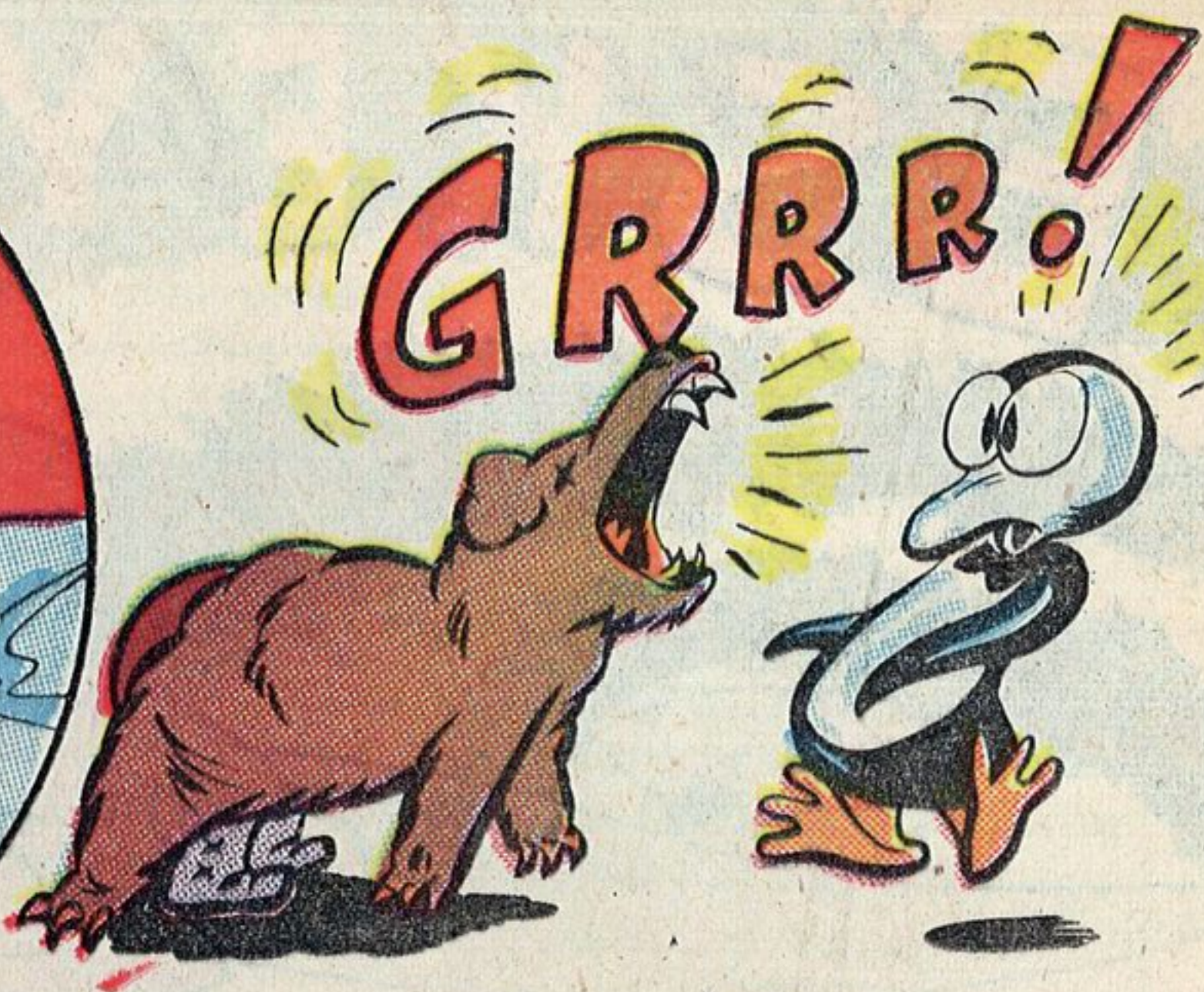
(Signed) JOSEPH A. RUBINSTEIN

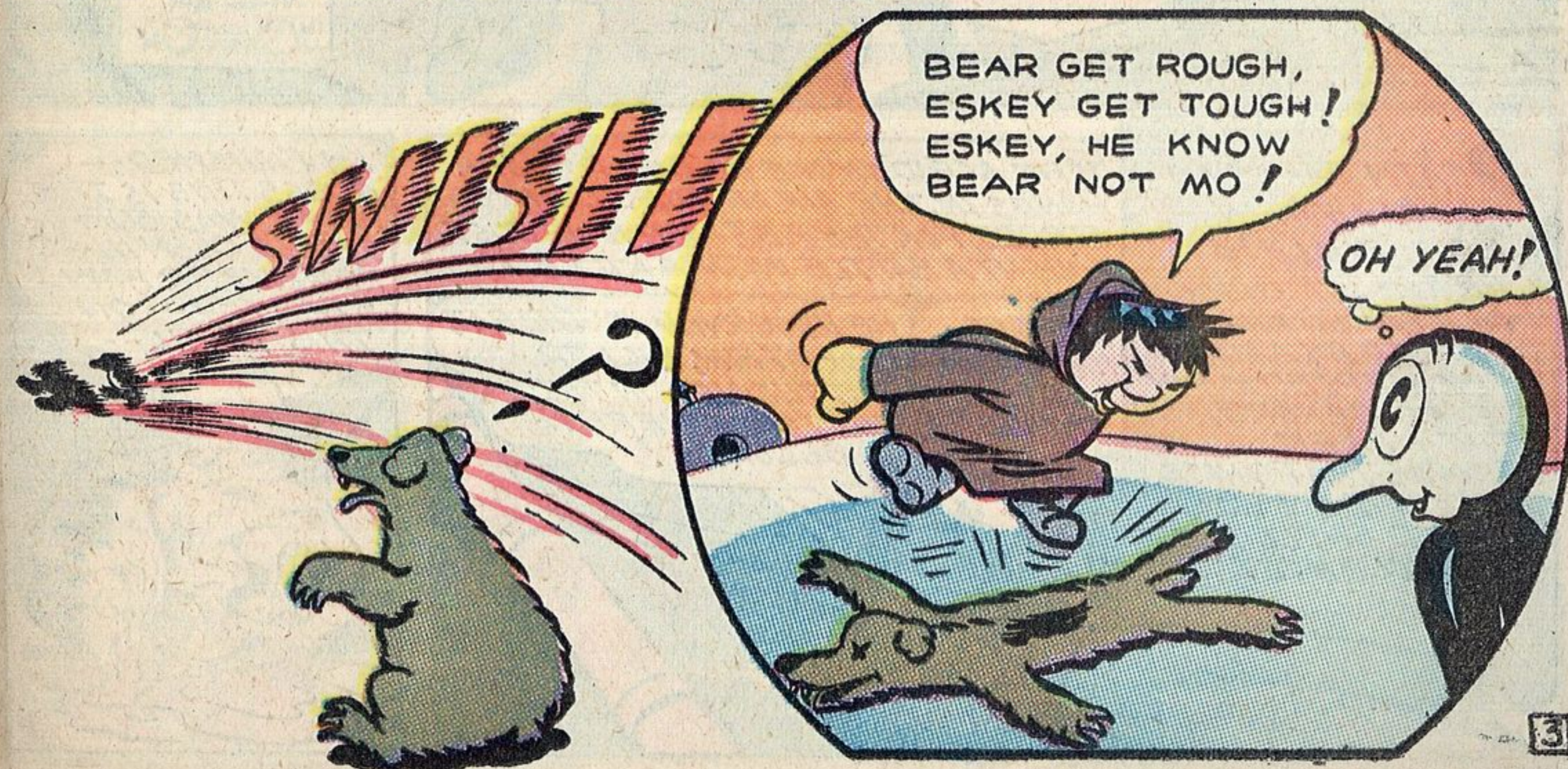
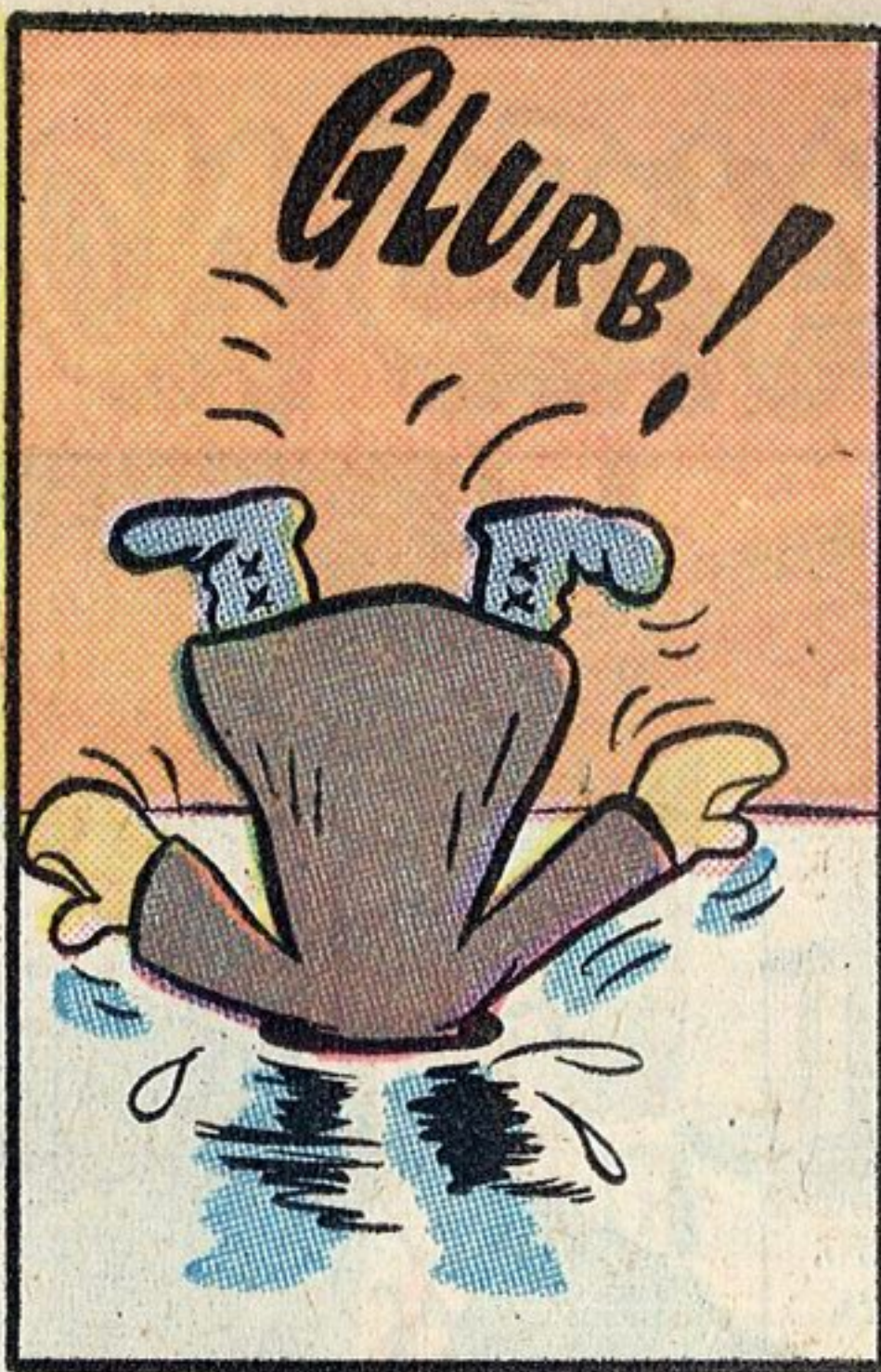
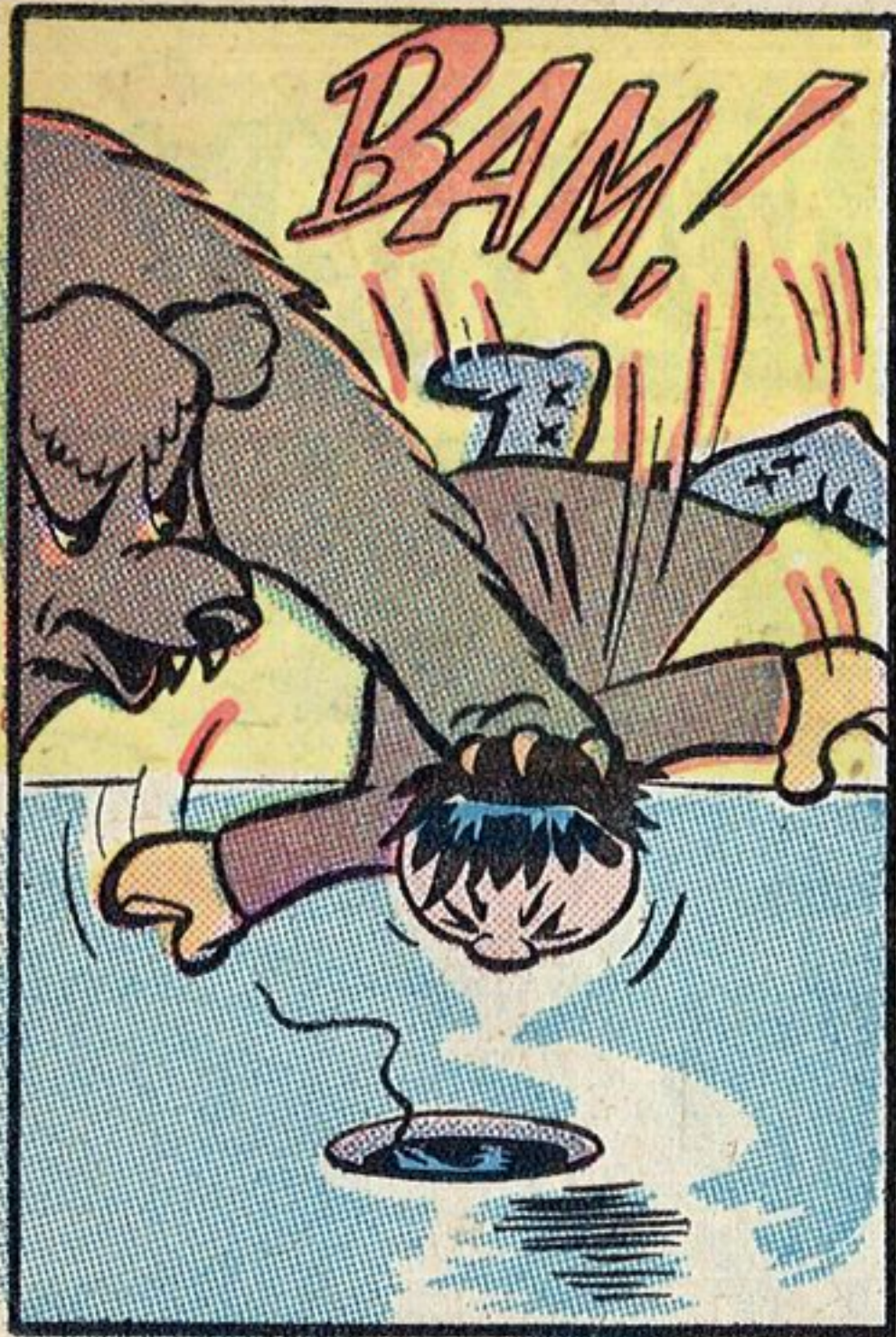
Sworn to and subscribed before me this 11th day of September, 1944.
(SEAL)

Charles B. Liffander.

(My commission expires March 30, 1946.)







DEATH TAKES NO HOLIDAY



WALTER JOHNSON

Irv-Werslein

DEATH TAKES NO HOLIDAY WHEN F.B.I. BULLETS PIERCE THE BODY OF A FAMED KILLER! EXPOSED BY A MAN HE CRIPPLED MANY YEARS BEFORE, THE KILLER PROVES THAT THOSE WHO LIVE BY VIOLENCE SHALL DIE BY VIOLENCE!

THE ACRID SMOKE OF GUN POWDER HANGS IN THE AIR OF THE SLUM STREET, FOR THE F.B.I. MEN HAVE JUST FOUGHT A BATTLE WITH A KILLER!

WE GOT HIM GOOD! HE'S DYING!

HE DESERVED IT! THE RAT, LOOK AT HIM, KILLER MATTHEWS-- IN THE GUTTER WHERE HE BELONGS!

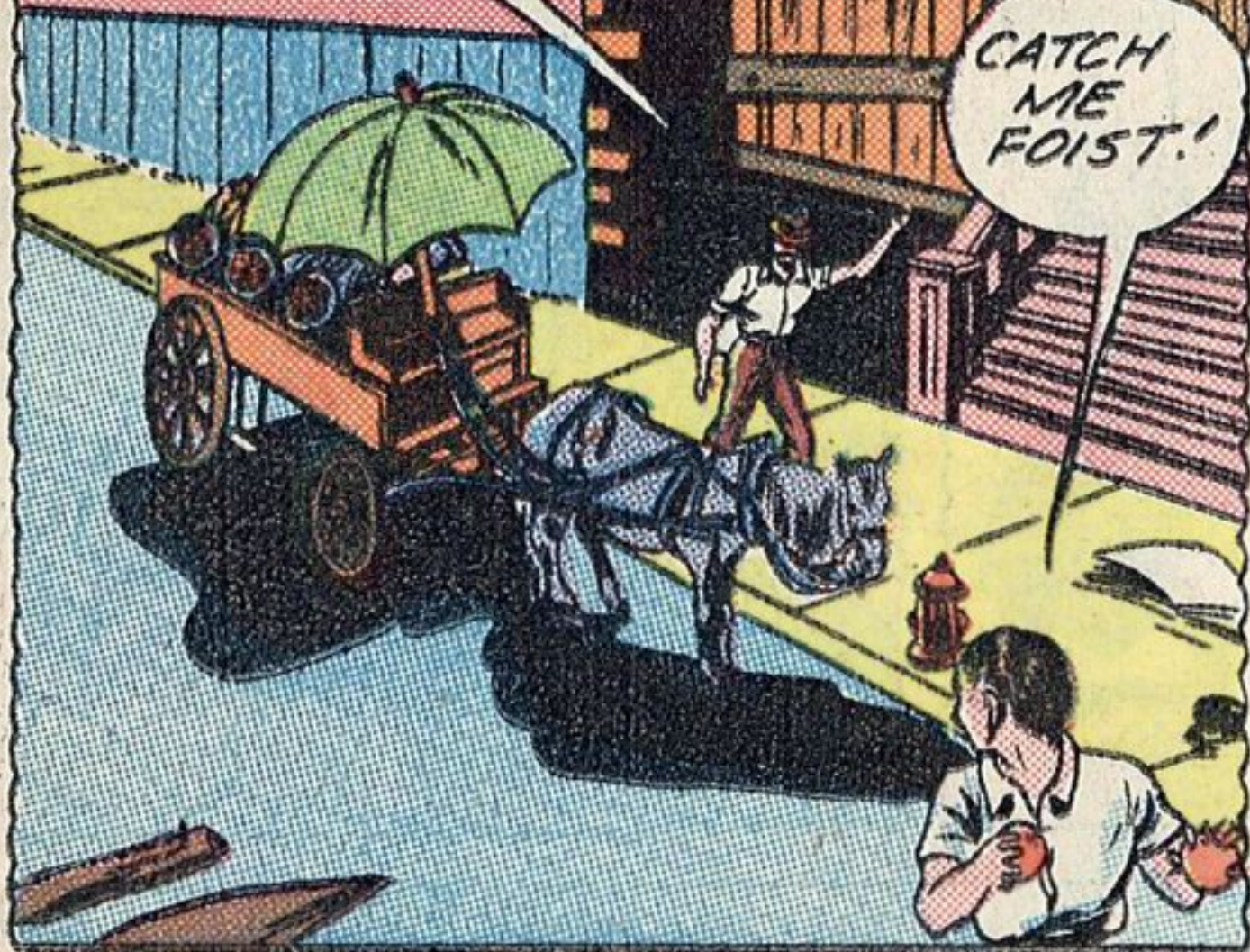
I'M FINISHED--- GUESS THIS IS THE WAY I WAS SUPPOSED TO CASH IN-- I REMEMBER HOW I STARTED--- ON THIS TRAIL--



THE KILLER'S LIFE FLASHES BEFORE HIM IN THE LAST GASPS OF HIS BREATH--

YA LITTLE CROOK!
C'MON BACK WIT' DOSE
APPLES! YA CROOK!

CATCH
ME
FOIST!



EDDIE, THE TRUANT OFFICER WAS HERE
AGAIN. YOU ARE A BAD BOY. YOU DIDN'T
GO TO SCHOOL. WHAT'S GOING TO
BECOME OF YOU? NOW I
GOTTA GO TO WORK. I'LL SPEAK
TO YOU WHEN I
COME BACK!

AH--
STOP
BEIN' A
PEST,
MA!



ONE DAY IN THE SCHOOL YARD

I CAN
USE THIS
CAP!

KEEP YOUR
HANDS OFF THE
KID, WISE
GUY!

LEMME
ALONE!



A LITTLE LATER---

NOW THE OLD LADY'S GONE--
I'LL SEE WHAT KINDA DOUGH
SHE HAS--AH--HERE'S A COUPLA
BUCKS! I'LL TAKE OFF DOWN
TO DA POOL ROOM!



OH, YOU'RE THAT SMART
BOY--GLENN SCOTT, AIN'T
YA? WELL, YOU BETTER
NOT BUTT INTA WHAT
DON'T CONCERN YA!

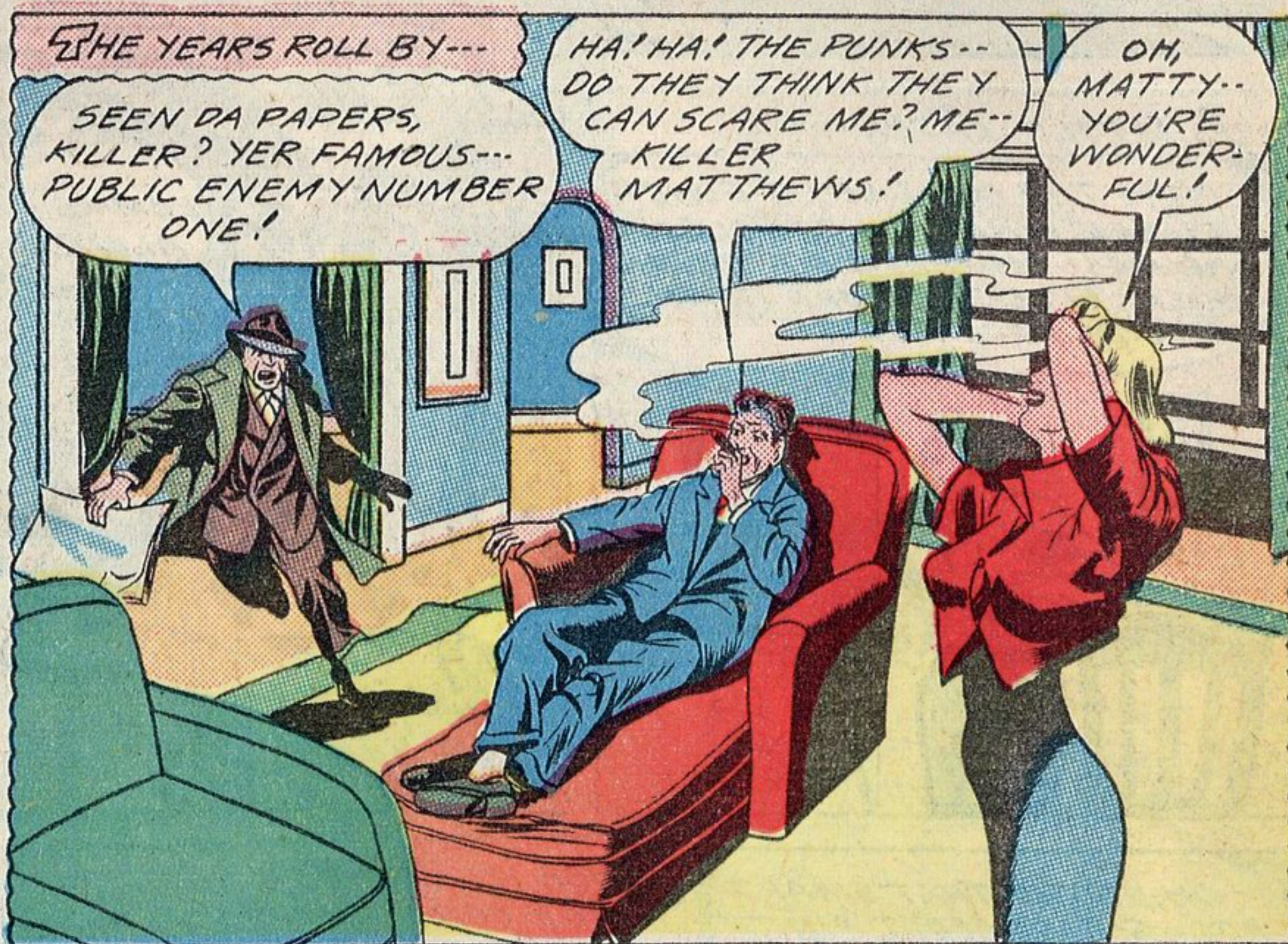
MAYBE I'LL MAKE
THINGS CONCERN ME!
YOU LEAVE
THE KID
ALONE!

AND
IF I
DON'T--



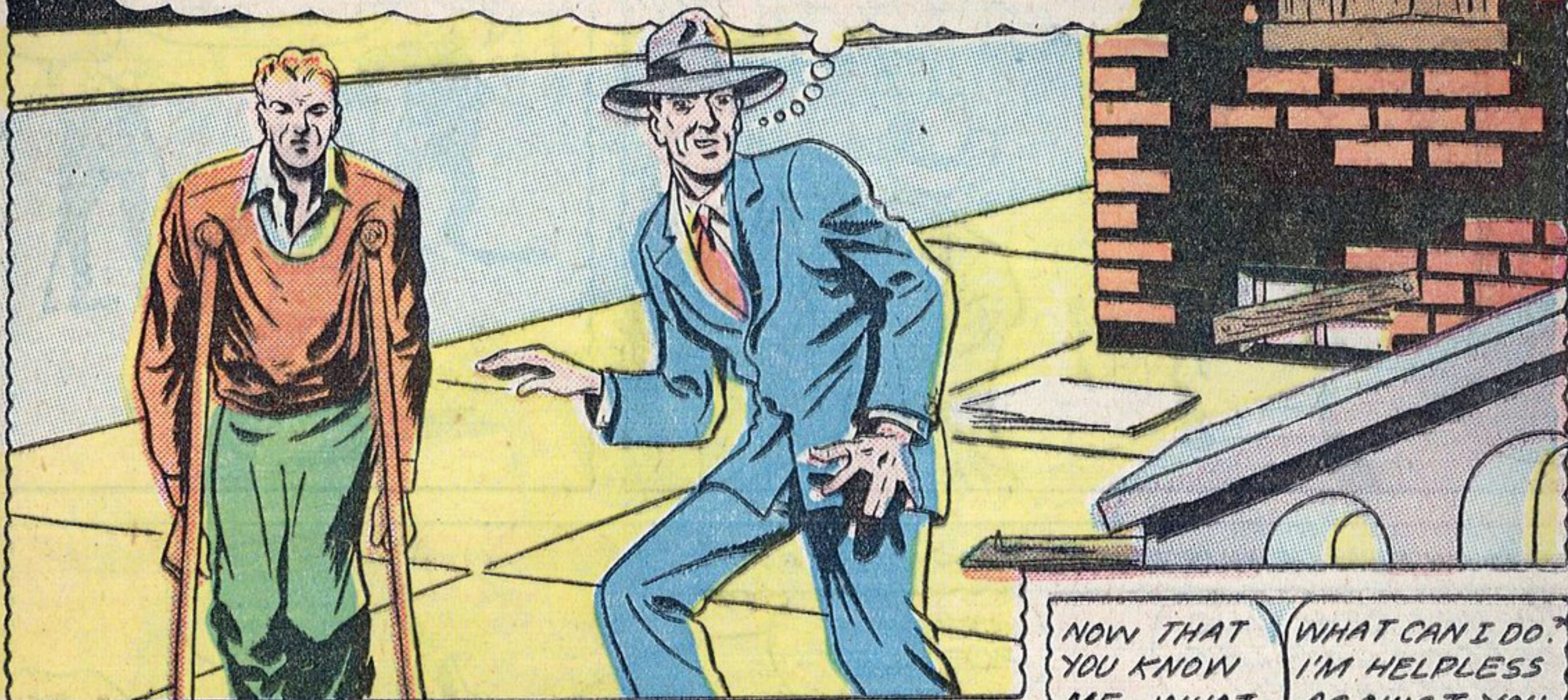
THIS!





TRUE TO HIS WISHES, THE KILLER GOES BACK TO HIS OLD NEIGHBORHOOD

NOBODY'LL KNOW ME WITH THIS NEW FACE 'GEE, THE OLD DUMP HASN'T CHANGED AT ALL 'THAT GUY LIMPIN UP THE STREET LOOKS VERY FAMILIAR.'



YOU---I KNOW YOU KILLER MATTHEWS! THE MAN WHO CRIPPLED ME!

YEAH! YOU'RE GLENN SCOTT. B-BUT HOW DID YOU RECOGNIZE ME?

DO YOU THINK I CAN EVER FORGET YOU? YOU RUINED MY LIFE-- AND CHANGING YOUR FACE CAN'T ERASE YOU FROM MY BRAIN!



NOW THAT YOU KNOW ME-- WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO ABOUT IT? YOU CRIPPLE!

WHAT CAN I DO? I'M HELPLESS AGAINST YOU-- PUBLIC ENEMY NUMBER ONE! NOW PLEASE LET ME PASS. I HAVE TO GO TO WORK!



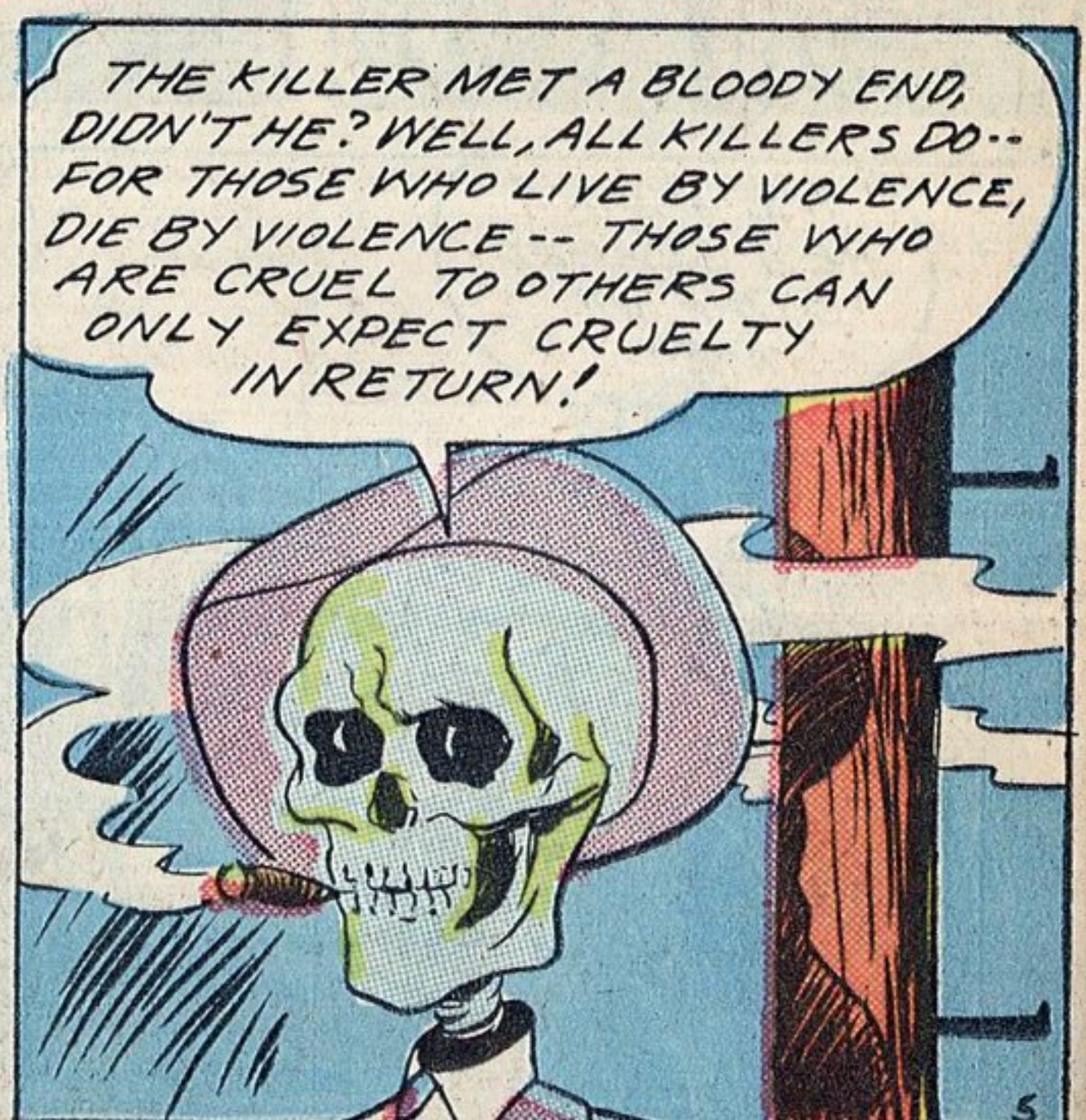
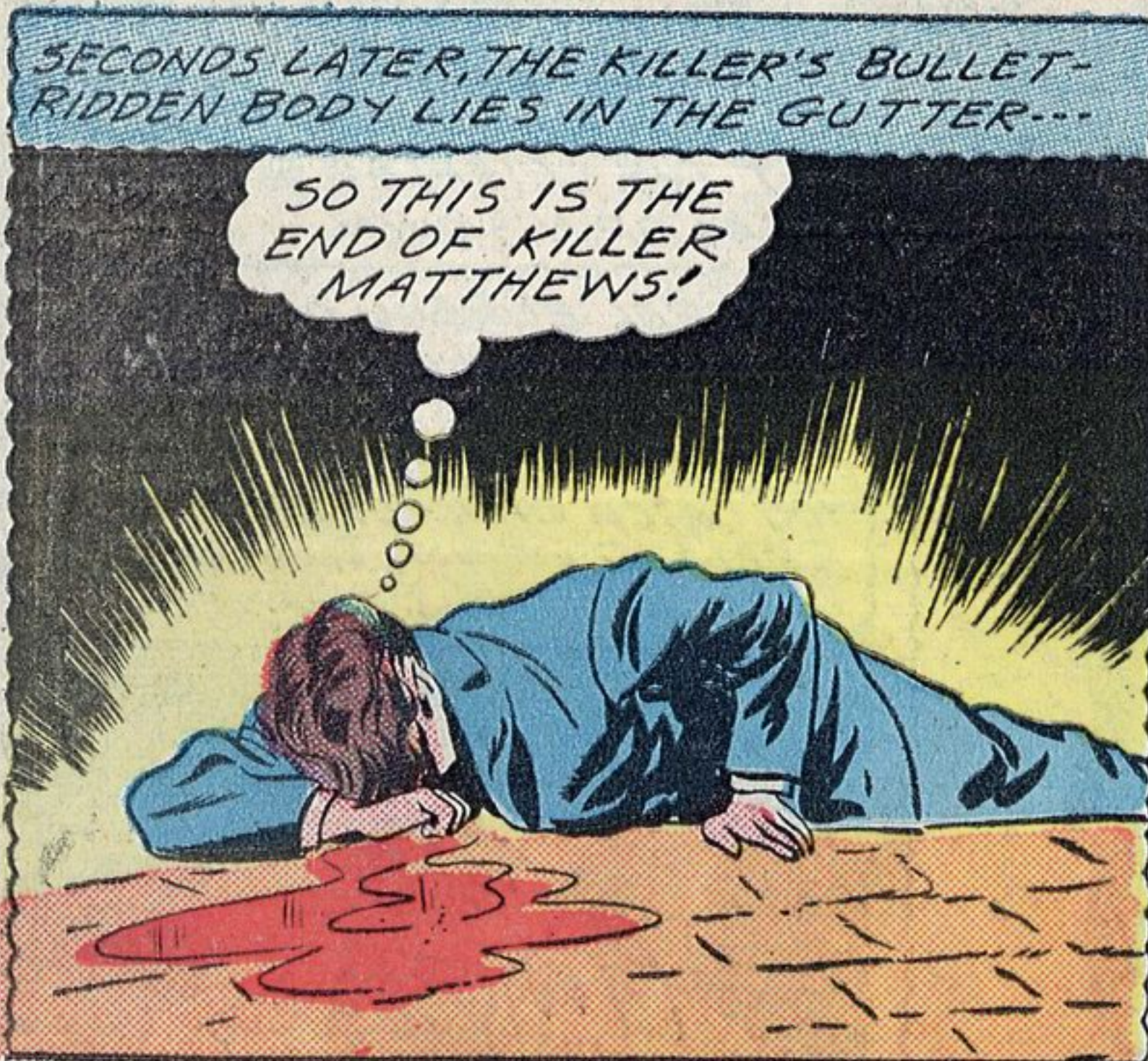
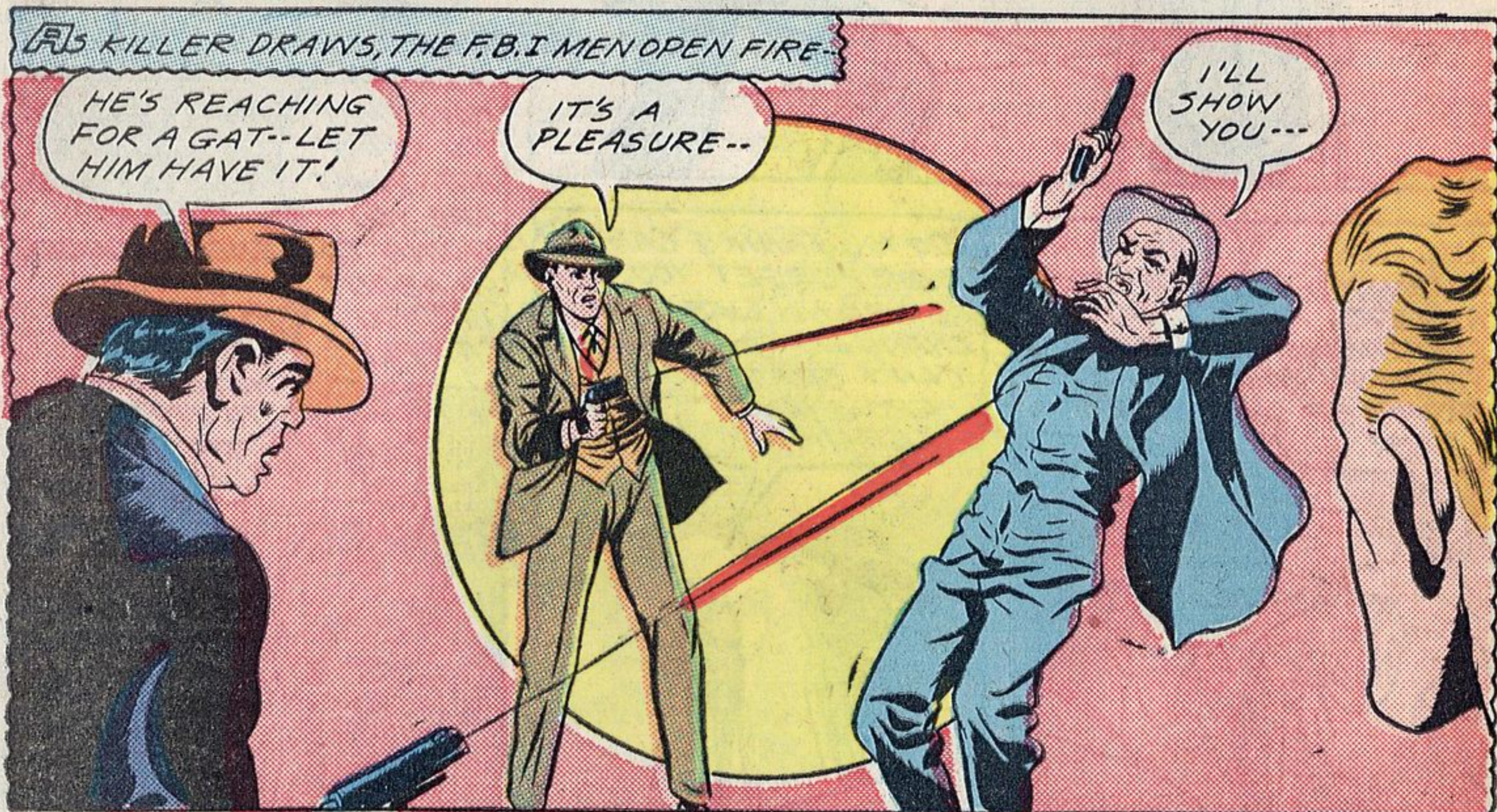
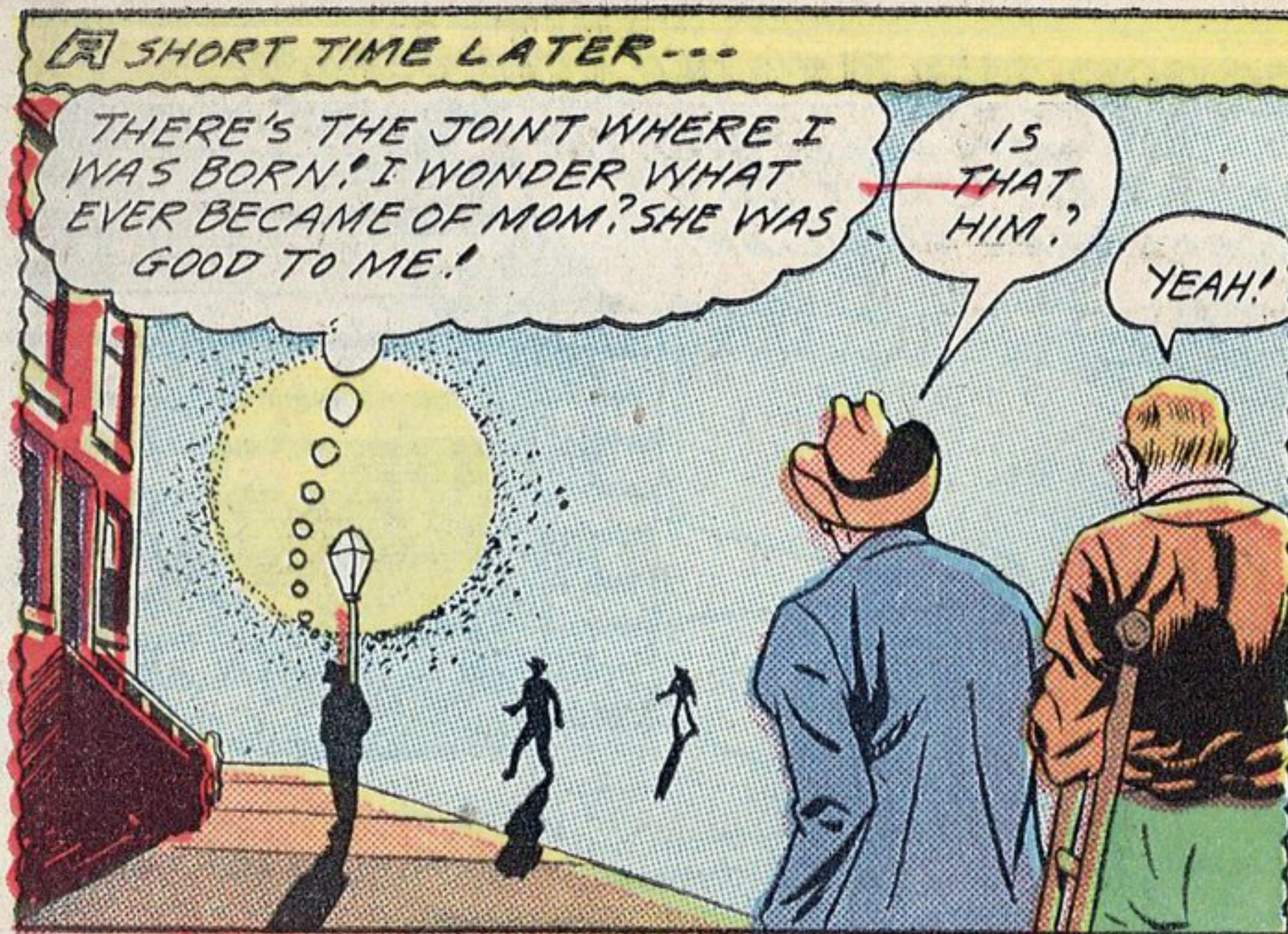
THE PUNK! HE'S SCARED STIFF OF ME!



BUT THE CRIPPLED SCOTT HAS IDEAS OF HIS OWN.

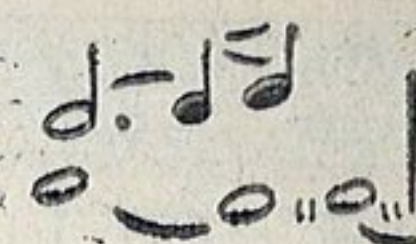
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION? I KNOW WHERE YOU CAN FIND KILLER MATTHEWS! YOU MUST MOVE FAST-- IF YOU CATCH HIM, I'LL GET THE REWARD, WON'T I? GOOD! I CAN USE THE DOUGH!







MUSICAL KEY SERIES



CARMEN



GARMEN IS ONE OF THE MOST POPULAR OPERAS, AND IS PERFORMED AT FAMOUS OPERA HOUSES THROUGHOUT THE WORLD. WRITTEN BY GEORGES BIZET, A FRENCHMAN, IT WAS FIRST PRODUCED IN PARIS ON MARCH 3, 1875. SINCE THEN IT HAS BECOME KNOWN AND LOVED BY OPERA GOERS EVERYWHERE.

CARMEN IS ARRESTED FOR TAKING PART IN A DISPUTE--

NOW YOU HAVE DONE IT WITH YOUR TEMPER! BRAWLING IN THE STREETS WITH THAT OTHER CIGARETTE GIRL!

I DID IT FOR LOVE OF YOU, JOSE! COME MY SWEET, DO NOT TIE THE ROPES SO TIGHTLY!

YOU REALIZE, CARMEN-THIS IS LIABLE TO COST ME MY JOB! STILL, YOU ARE TOO BEAUTIFUL TO LANGUISH IN PRISON!

AH, MY LOVED ONE, HERE IS MY PLAN. ON THE BRIDGE I WILL PUSH YOU ON THE GUARDS... AND THEN I WILL RUN!





CARMEN, HER HANDS LOOSELY BOUND PUSHES JOSE INTO THE GUARDS!

THERE'S NOW I WILL RUN!

OOPS! I STUMBLED!

WATCH IT! YOU'RE KNOCKING ME OVER!



ACT AS IF YOU WEREN'T IN ON THIS! THE CAPTAIN SHALL HEAR OF YOUR AID IN HER ESCAPE!

S-SHE'S ESCAPING!

YOU'LL GO TO THE GUARD-HOUSE, JOSE!

MONTHS LATER, CARMEN AWAITS JOSE IN A CAFE, WHERE SHE MEETS THE GREAT TOREADOR, ESCAMILLO!

JOSE, RELEASED FROM PRISON, RETURNS TO CARMEN, NOT KNOWING THAT SHE HAS JOINED A GIPSY SMUGGLER GANG!

IF YOU LOVE ME, JOSE, YOU WILL FOREGO THE DUTIES OF A SOLDIER. JOIN OUR GANG AND WE WILL BE TOGETHER ALWAYS!

WAIT FOR THIS FOOLISH LOVER OF YOURS THEN! BUT ONE DAY YOU WILL BE ESCAMILLO'S!

BE THAT AS IT MAY! I AM WAITING FOR JOSE TO COME FROM PRISON! NEITHER YOU NOR HIS CAPTAIN CAN TAKE MY LOVE AWAY!



CARMEN! I AM HERE!

I AM GLAD TO SEE YOU! I HAVE MISSED YOU!

WHAT? BECOME A SMUGGLER AND TRAITOR? NEVER!



I AM GOING, CARMEN. WHY CAPTAIN ZUNIGA!

YES, YOUR CAPTAIN! I TOO, LOVE CARMEN AND I WANT YOU TO STAY AWAY!



IGNORING THE OFFICER'S RANK, JOSE GOES FOR HIM!

DOG! THIS WILL SHOW YOU WHOM CARMEN LOVES!

THIS WILL MEAN YOUR HIDE! INSULTING AN OFFICER, EH?



QUICKLY, JOSE--
WE WILL FLEE
TO THE MOUNTAINS.
YOU CAN HIDE
THERE!

YES, THAT IS ALL
THAT IS LEFT TO ME!
I HAVE ATTACKED AN
OFFICER! I WOULD
BE COURT MARTIALLED.

JOSE IS UNHAPPY IN HIS NEW SURROUND-
INGS. HE WISHES HE COULD GO BACK TO HIS
OLD LIFE AS A SOLDIER--BUT BOUND TO
CARMEN BY LOVE, HE STAYS ON---

IF YOU DO NOT LIKE
IT HERE, GO!

DON'T TALK LIKE
THAT, CARMEN, OR I'LL
SLIT YOUR THROAT!

A MESSENGER ARRIVES FOR JOSE!

JOSE! YOUR MOTHER IS
DYING! SHE BADE ME
BRING YOU TO HER!

MY MOTHER DYING? I
WILL GO. BUT I SHALL
RETURN, CARMEN, AND
IF I FIND YOU HAVE
BEEN UNFAITHFUL, I
WILL KILL YOU!

GOOD!
HE GOES! NOW
I CAN GO TO ES-
CAMILLO, THE
TOREADOR!

TIME HAS PASSED! ESCAMILLO IS NOW
CARMEN'S LOVER! SHE HAS FORGOTTEN
JOSE---BUT JEALOUSY GNAWS AT
JOSE'S HEART AND, ON THE DAY OF
THE GREAT BULL FIGHT, HE FINDS
HER!

I GO NOW, MY
SWEET, BUT
SOON I
RETURN!

YES, COME
BACK TO ME,
LOVER--MY
HERO!

I'LL SOON
STOP THIS!

JOSE LEAPS OUT! HIS KNIFE BLADE
GLITTERS IN THE SUN AS IT PLUMMETS
DOWN INTO CARMEN'S SOFT FLESH---

IF I CAN'T HAVE
YOU, NO ONE WILL!

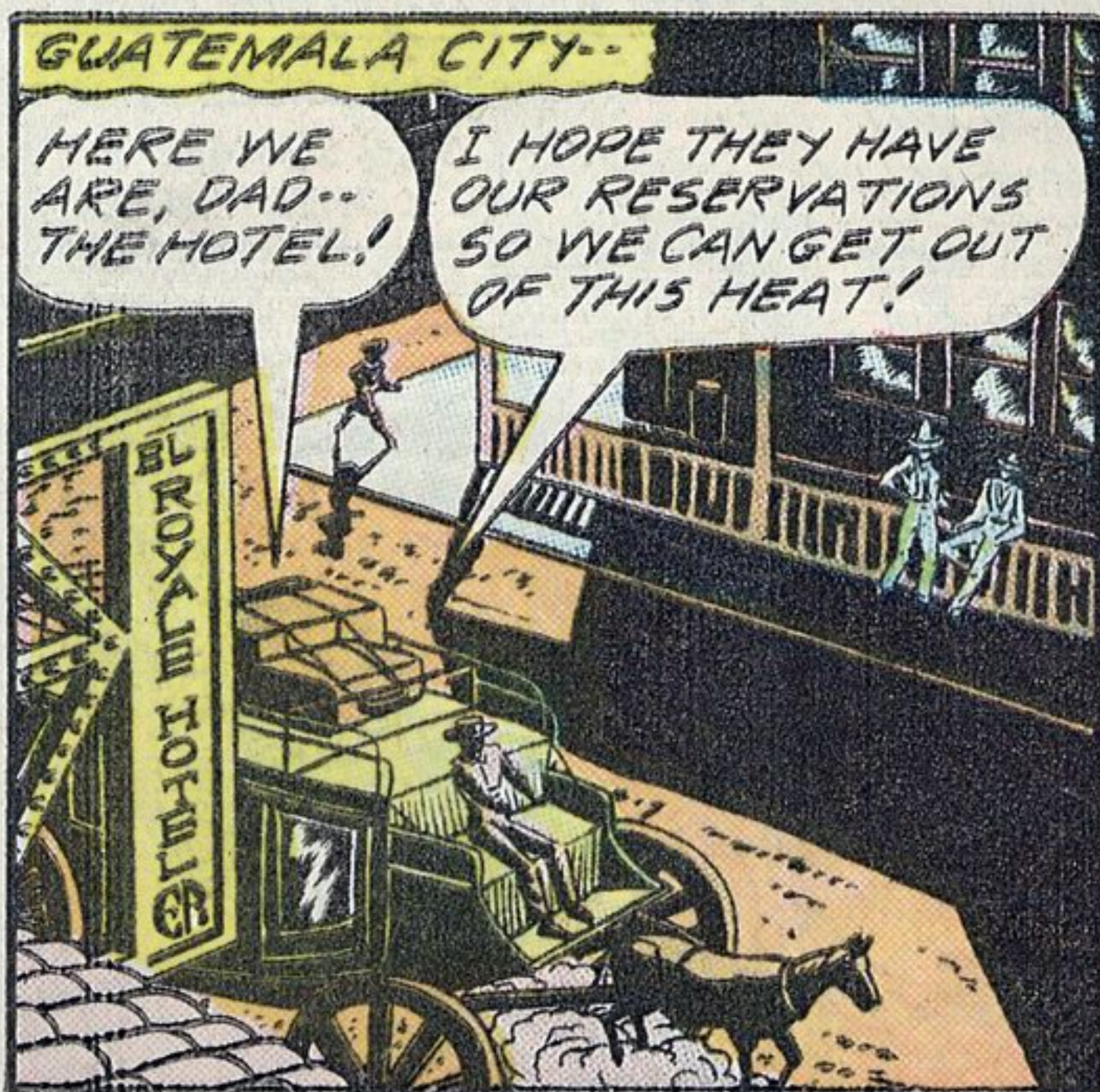
AHHH! I AM
STABBED!

DEL
TORO

THE VICTORIOUS ESCAMILLO RUNS TO HIS
LOVED ONE

CARMEN! YOU
HAVE KILLED HER!

YES, BECAUSE
I LOVED HER!



LATER, AT EL TIGRE'S MOUNTAIN EYRIE---

WE SPEAK TRUTH, EL TIGRE! A RICH YANKEE AND HIS DAUGHTER!

AND THEY WAIT PICKING LIKE RIPE PLUMS!



BUENO! WE MOVE IN TONIGHT!

MEANWHILE, AT THE HOTEL---

GET A GOOD NIGHT'S SLEEP NOW, DAD!

YES, DEAR! GOOD NIGHT!

DAILY BLAB

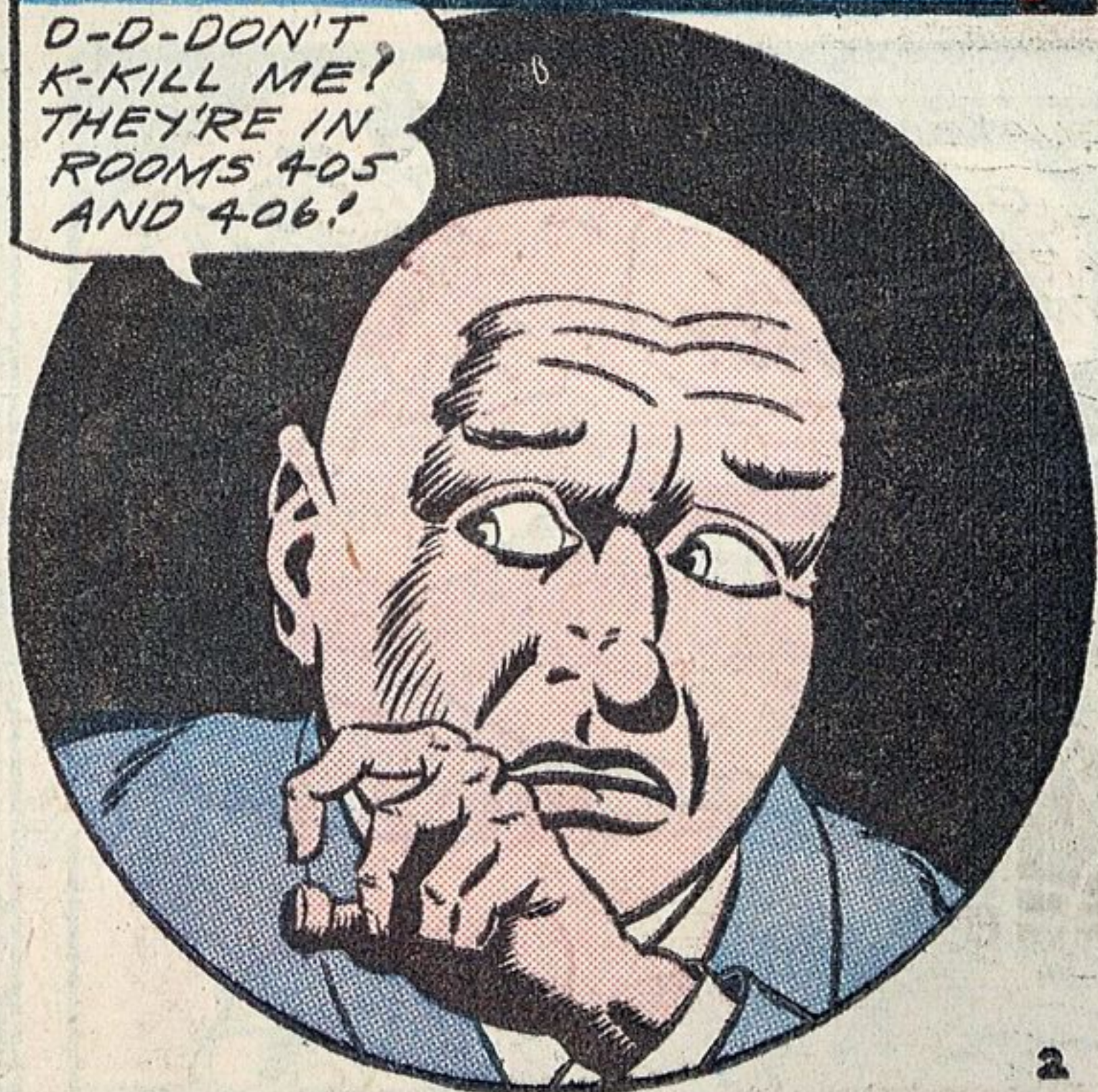
AS THE CITY SLEEPS, FURTIVE FIGURES, BENT ON EVIL BUSINESS, CLOSE IN ---

THERE IS THE HOTEL, EL TIGRE!

GOOD! UNHORSE, MEN, WE WILL PAY THE CLERK A VISIT!

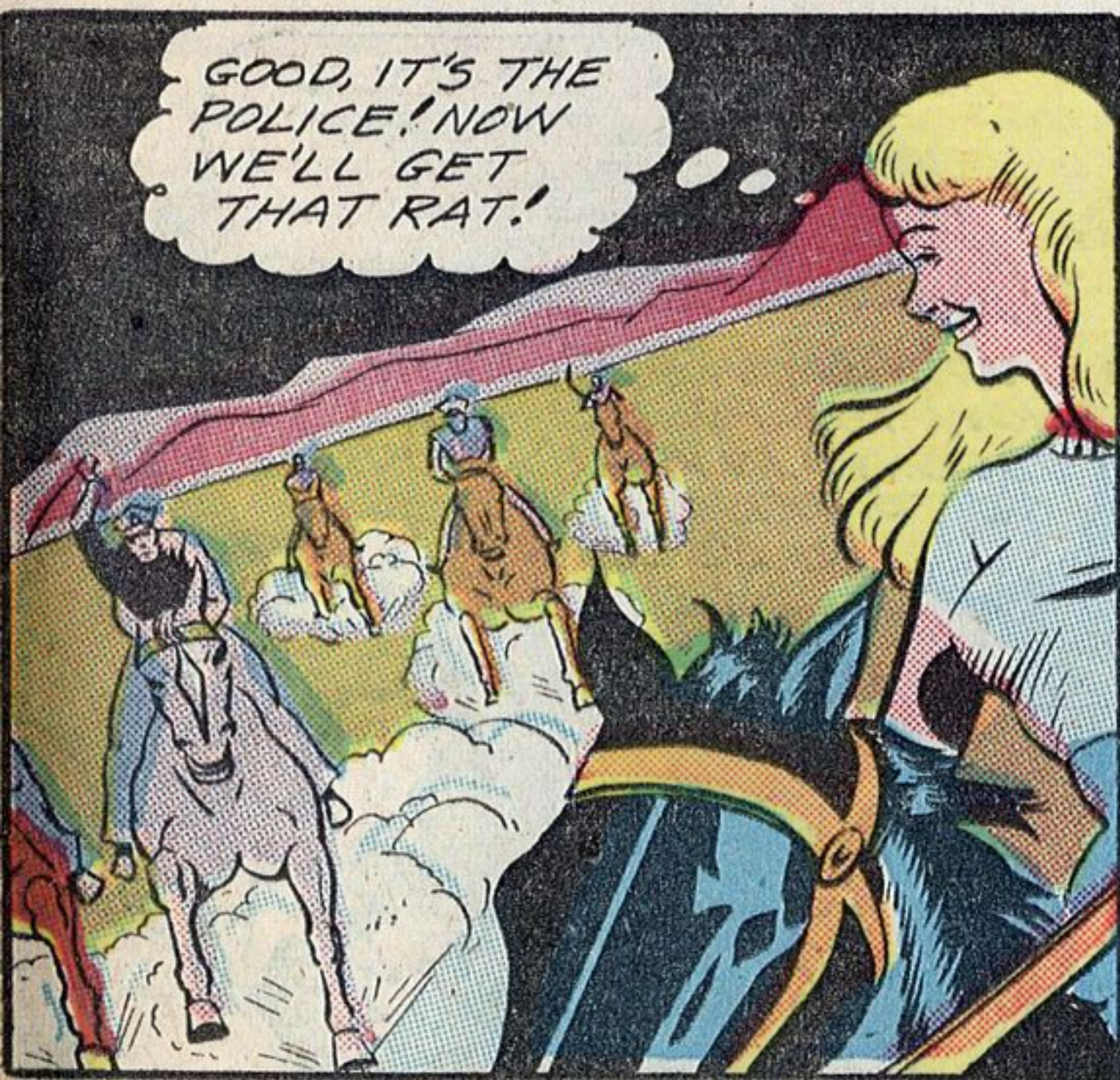
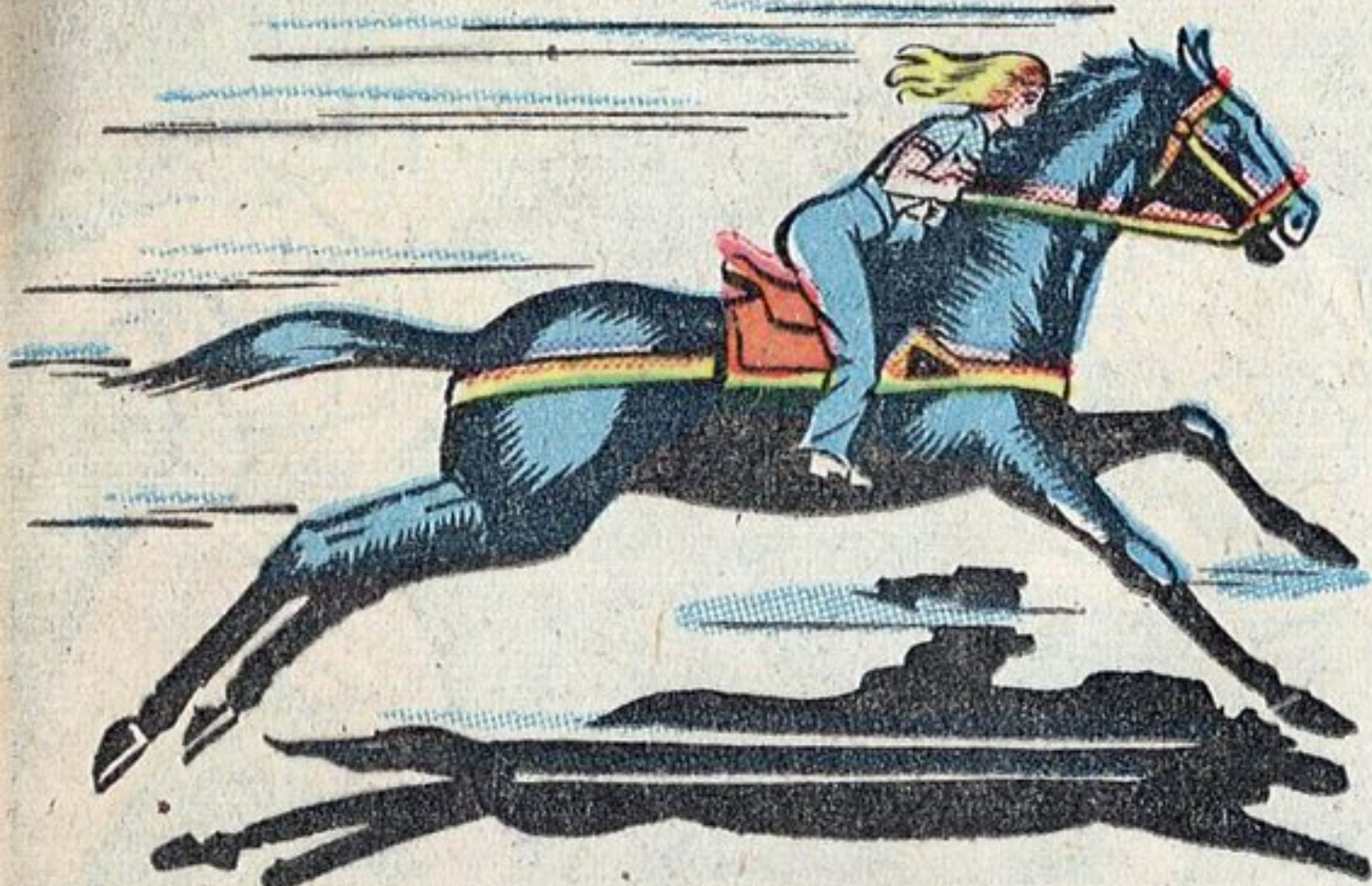
NOW TALK, HOMBRE--OR MY MEN WILL LET AIR THROUGH YOU! WHERE IS THE ROOM OF THE RICH YANKEE AND HIS DAUGHTER?

D-D-DON'T K-KILL ME! THEY'RE IN ROOMS 405 AND 406!

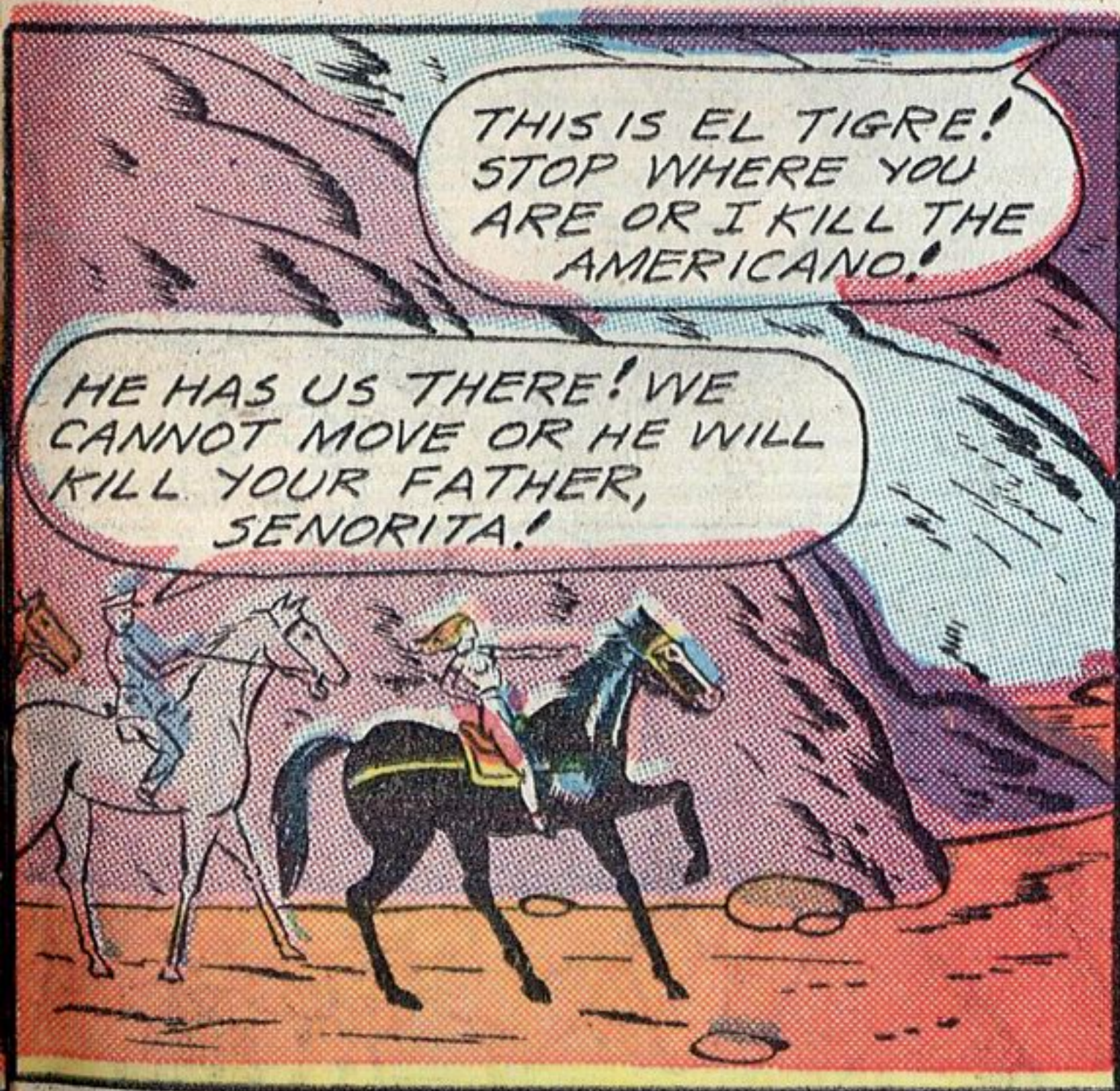
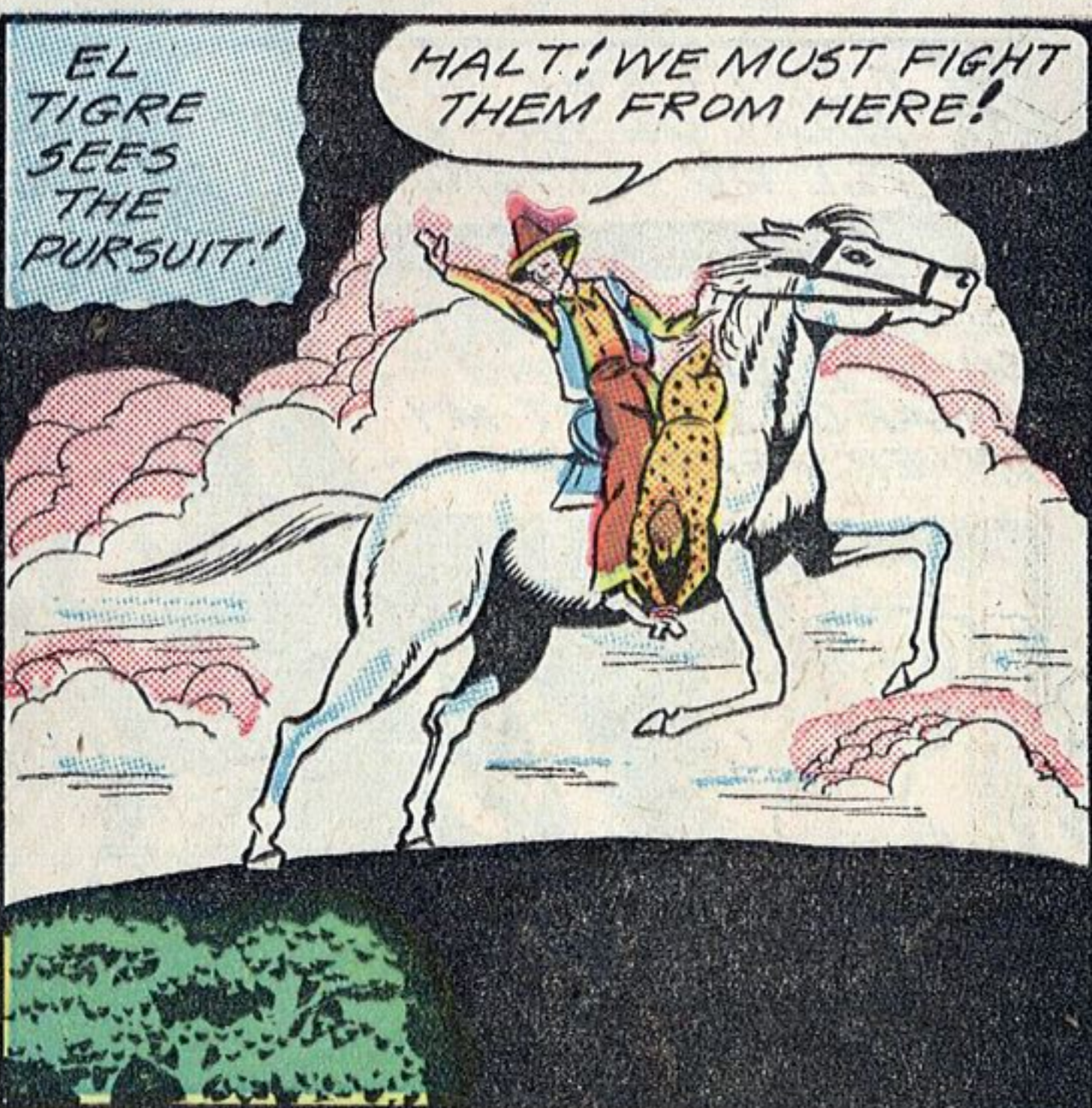




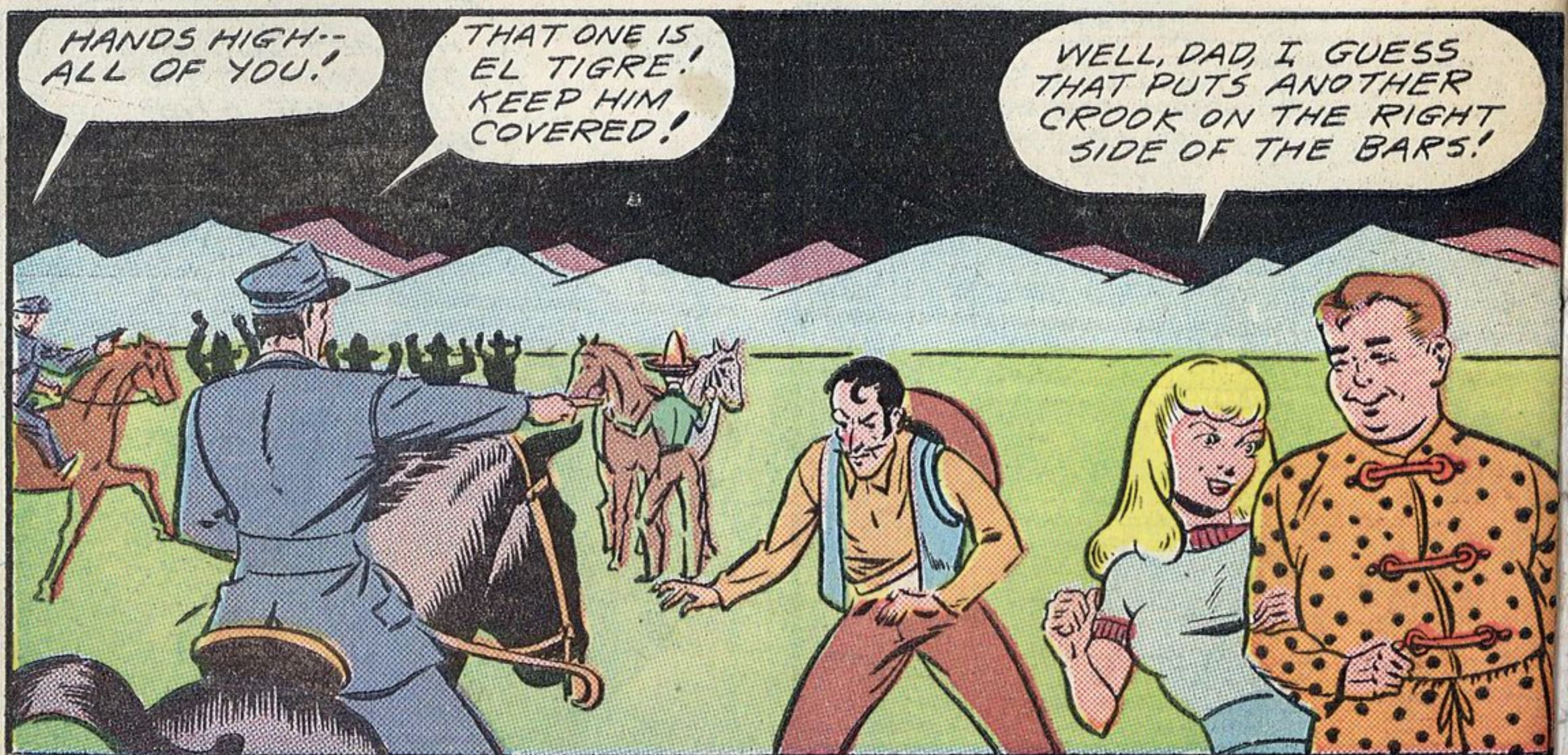
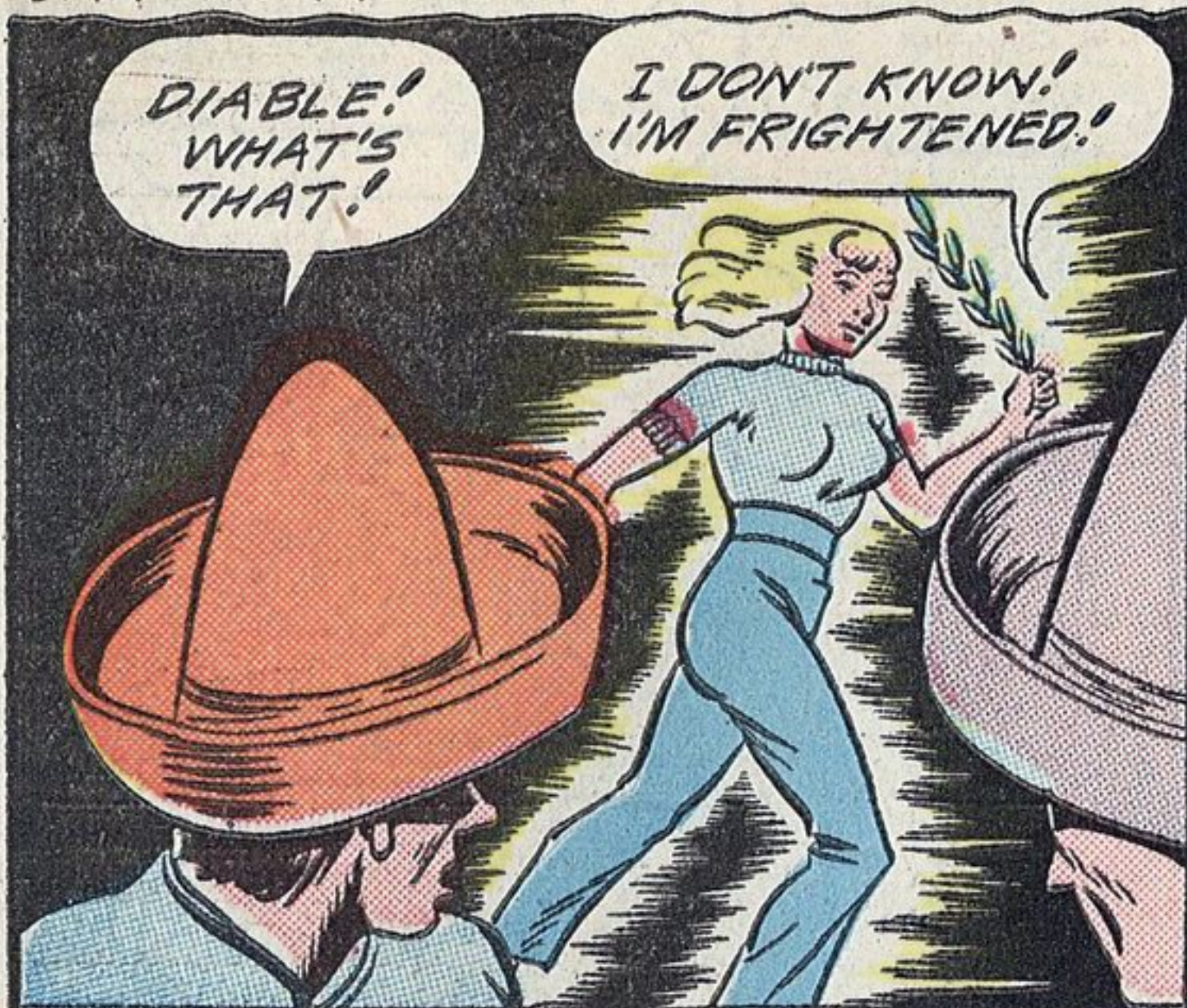
GALE SECURES A HORSE AND
MOMENTS LATER---



MEANWHILE BACK AT THE HOTEL--



AN EERIE FIGURE SLIPS INTO THE
BANDIT'S LINES--- THE ELUSIVE,
DARTING WILL O' THE WISP!



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1. Ladies' Wedding Band with 7 brilliant simulated diamonds. White gold color effect mounting, or yellow gold color.



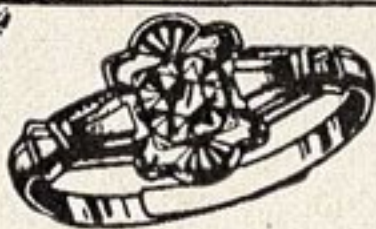
2. Handclasp Friendship Ring. Yellow gold color effect mounting, or sterling silver.



3. Friendship Band, Yellow or white gold color effect mounting or sterling silver.



4a Friendship Ring, solid mounting silver in the smart, popular Sweetheart design.



5a Ladies' Solitaire Engagement Ring with brilliant center stone that's hard to tell from genuine diamond. White gold color effect.



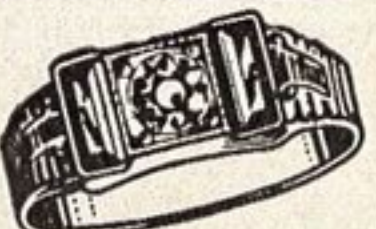
6a Men's Ring set with green stone in center, carved design on shank. White gold color effect.



7. Love & Friendship Ring. Solid sterling silver with 2 hearts linked. Beautifully engraved. (Forget-me-not)



8. Child's Ring set with simulated stone. White or yellow gold color effect.



9. Men's ring with dazzling diamond (simulated) in center and 2 simulated sapphires on each side. White gold color effect mounting.



10. Child's Signet Ring. Yellow or white gold color effect.



11. Wedding Ring. Raised floral design. White gold or yellow gold color effect, or sterling silver mounting.



12a Men's Ring set with single brilliant simulated diamond. White gold color effect.



13. Men's Solitaire Ring with simulated diamond in square mounting. Yellow or white gold color effect.



14. Ladies' Solitaire Ring Large center simulated diamond with smaller stones.



15a Men's Ring set with twin simulated diamonds. White gold color effect.



16a Men's Signet Ring — yellow gold color effect. A neat ring for the conservative dresser.



17a Ladies' Cluster Style Ring. A beautiful ring set with 7 clear, brilliant simulated diamonds set in a cluster. White gold color effect. Pierced mounting.



18. Ladies' Birthstone Ring. White or yellow gold color effect mounting, or sterling silver. Be sure to give birth month for proper color of stone.



19. Ladies' Solitaire Engagement ring Filigree mounting in white gold color effect, or sterling silver.



20. Ladies' Solitaire Engagement ring with 5 brilliant simulated diamonds in yellow gold color effect mounting.



21. Men's Ring with brilliant simulated diamond. White gold color effect mounting.



22. Ladies' Solitaire engagement ring. Extra large, brilliant simulated diamond. Yellow or white gold color effect.



23. Ladies' Solitaire Engagement Ring, exceptionally brilliant simulated diamond Tiffany Style setting. White or yellow gold color effect.



24. Love & Friendship Ring Solid sterling silver. Beautifully engraved. Also used as wedding ring.



25. Ladies' Plain Wedding Band Yellow or white gold color effect, or sterling silver.

DUE to war shortages we may not always have your size in the style you want. To avoid disappointment, therefore, we suggest you mark your second choice in the space indicated in coupon.



26. Men's Ring with large simulated Ruby also in assorted colored stones. Yellow or white gold color effect mounting.



27a Men's Military Ring — U. S. Army insignia — Heavy Solid Sterling Silver or yellow gold color. Massive design.



28. Ladies' Solitaire Ring with large, brilliant center diamond (simulated) and 3 smaller stones on each side. Yellow or white gold color effect mounting.



29a Men's Military Ring — Air Corps Insignia — Solid Sterling Silver — Massive design.



30. Ladies' Solitaire Ring with gorgeous square cut simulated emerald or ruby. White gold color effect mounting.



31a Men's Military Ring — U. S. Marines insignia — Massive design in yellow gold color effect and Sterling silver.



32a Men's Military Ring — U. S. Navy Insignia — Solid Sterling Silver — Massive design.



33. Large center simulated Ladies' Solitaire Ring Diamond — 2 smaller sized stones. Yellow or white gold color effect mounting.



34. Ladies' Ring with beautiful diamond (simulated). Yellow or white gold color effect.



35. Men's Signet Ring. White gold color effect mounting.



36a Ladies' Dinner Ring with large, unusually clear, brilliant simulated diamond or color ed stone in center surrounded by smaller stones. White gold color effect.



37a Love & Friendship Ring, chaste design also used as Wedding Ring. Yellow or white gold color effect, or sterling silver.



38a Ladies' Solitaire Ring. Center stone is genuine diamond chip. Solid Sterling Silver mounting.



39. Ladies' Solitaire Ring. 3 sparkling simulated diamonds. White gold color effect mounting.



40. Men's Signet Ring, also for boys. White or yellow gold color effect mounting.



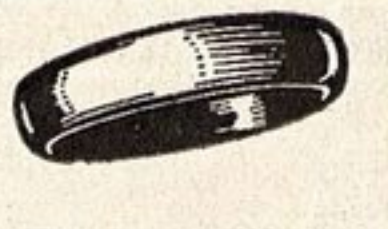
41. Ladies' Solitaire Ring with large center simulated diamond and 6 smaller stones. Yellow or white gold color effect mounting.



42a Hand Clasp Love & Friendship ring Rings come apart to form 2 rings. Made of sterling silver.



43a Ladies' Wedding Band 7 large brilliant simulated diamonds. White or yellow gold color effect mounting, or sterling silver.



44a Men's Wedding Ring Yellow or white gold color effect, or sterling silver.



45a Corozo Nut Rings. Hand carved from the nut of the Corozo Palm. Hand polished to a beautiful ebony black and set with simulated pearl. These rings are highly prized by the natives of Puerto-Rico. There's a legend that 'Good Luck Always Follows the Wearer.'



46a



47. Men's ring with square cut simulated garnet Yellow or white gold color effect mounting.



48. Wedding Band. Set with sparkling simulated diamonds. White or yellow gold color effect mounting, or sterling silver.

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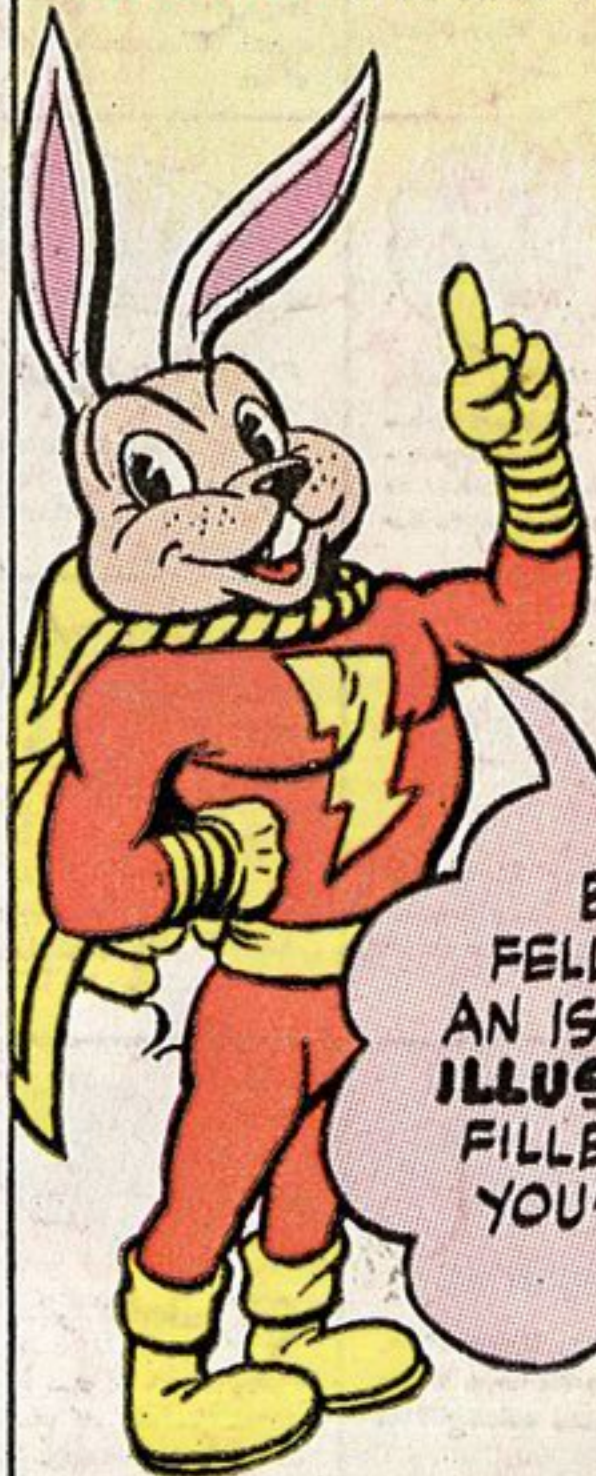
AN
Do you know what magazine I read?

says **C**aptain
Marvel



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